THE SEAL OF THE STATE
OF ALASKA

50290-1-U

Alaska Court System

State of Alaska

303 "K" STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
99501

ARTHUR H. SNOWDEN II
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

(907) 274-8611

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to transmit the annual report of the Alaska Court System for FY 1984.

The Alaska judiciary faces many problems in common with courts in other states. Chief among these are the increasing costs of litigation, court delay, compensation for private attorneys appointed to represent indigent litigants, and a burgeoning volume of lawsuits and trials.

Developments outlined in this report reflect significant steps during FY 84 toward the goal of prompt and cost effective justice: an analysis of pretrial delay in Alaska, proposals to simplify procedures in civil cases, major progress toward automation of court caseloads, and implementation of computerized case management systems. The 1984 legislature offered support by funding additional judgeships, and by creating an office of public advocacy to supplement the public defender agency in providing representation at public expense.

Alaska also faces unique problems attributable to its geographical and cultural diversity. Maintaining a high level of services in rural locations is a perennial challenge. FY 84 accomplishments in this area include plans to install a computer for legal research in Barrow rather than a hard-copy law library which is costly in terms of space and upkeep, and supreme court review of recommendations for amendments to court rules to permit some court hearings to take place over the telephone.

Although ongoing activities such as upgrading court facilities, meeting affirmative action goals, and training magistrates are less dramatic, the steady progress of the court system in these areas has been critical to an effective and efficient judiciary.

We look forward in FY 85 to continuing to meet both old and new challenges to the justice system in Alaska.

Arthur H Snowden II

Arthur H. Snowden, II
Administrative Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

PROFILE OF THE ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

Alaska Court System Fact Sheet. 3

Alaska Court System Organization. 4

Introduction. 5

The Supreme Court 6

The Court of Appeals. 9

The Superior Court. 10

The District Court. 15

Statewide Court Administration. 20

The Judicial Appointment Process. 20

Judicial Retention Elections. 21

Budget and Fiscal Affairs 22

Alaska Judicial Council 24

Commission on Judicial Conduct. 24

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE APPELLATE COURTS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1984

Introduction. 27

Supreme Court 27

  Explanation of Statistical Categories 27

  Filings 28

  Dispositions. 29

  Pending Caseload. 31

  Time Required for Disposition of Cases. 31

  Petitions for Hearing 32

Court of Appeals. 33

  Filings 33

  Dispositions. 34

  Pending Caseload. 35

  Time Required for Disposition of Cases. 36

Tables: 37
Table I: Supreme Court - Recapitulation 37
Table II: Supreme Court - Dispositions 38
Table III: Supreme Court - Historical 39
Table IV: Supreme Court - Reasons for Cases Pending June 30, 1984. 40
Table V: Supreme Court - Length of Time to Disposition. 41
Table VI: Alaska Supreme Court and Court of Appeals - Backlog Months 42
Table VII: Court of Appeals - Recapitulation. 43
Table VIII: Court of Appeals - Dispositions. 44
Table IX: Court of Appeals - Historical. 45
Table X: Court of Appeals - Reasons for Cases Pending June 30, 1984. 46
Table XI: Court of Appeals - Length of Time to Disposition. 47

FY 1984 AND THE TRIAL COURTS

FY 1984 and the Trial Courts. 51
Trial Courts Statistical Summary. 54
Table I: Alaska Trial Courts FY 84 Caseload Summary. 55
Superior Court FY 84 Caseload Overview. 56
Table II: Caseload Summary 57
Table III: Summary of Filings and Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84. 58
Table IV: Caseload Composition 59
Table V: Summary of Caseload FY 81 - FY 84. 60
Table VI: Filings by Case Type FY 81 - FY 84 61
District Court Caseload Overview. 62
Table VII: Caseload Summary 63
Table VIII: Summary of Filings and Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84. 64
Table IX: Caseload Composition 65
Table X: Summary of Caseload FY 81 - FY 84. 66
Table XI: Filings by Case Type FY 81 - FY 84 67

COURT ADMINISTRATION

Caseflow Management. 71

Records, Statistics and Information Systems. 72

Space and Equipment Management 73

  FY 84: Completed Improvements 73

  FY 84: Funded Improvements. 75

  Table I: Facility Improvements Funded in FY 84 - Location and Type of Space 75

Libraries. 77

New Equipment. 77

In-Service Education and Training. 77

Legislation Affecting Court System Operations. 79

Court Rules. 81

Court Personnel 81

  Table II: Composition of Classified and Non-Judicial Employees 82

Public Information 82

Law Day. 83

Profile

PROFILE OF THE ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Alaska Court System Fact Sheet. 3

Alaska Court System Organization. 4

Introduction. 5

The Supreme Court 6

The Court of Appeals. 9

The Superior Court. 10

The District Court. 15

Statewide Court Administration. 20

The Judicial Appointment Process. 20

Judicial Retention Elections. 21

Budget and Fiscal Affairs 22

Alaska Judicial Council 24

Commission on Judicial Conduct. 24

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM FACT SHEET

(Information as of June 30, 1984)

FISCAL YEAR: July 1 - June 30

Geographical area served: 566,000 square miles

Number of judges:
- 5 supreme court justices
- 3 court of appeals judges
- 27 superior court judges
- 12 district court judges

Number of court locations:
- 14 superior and district court locations
- 41 district courts only (judge and/or magistrate)

Total number of permanent full-time court employees: 579

5 largest trial courts (by number of permanent full-time employees):

Anchorage :	202
Fairbanks :	85
Juneau :	23
Ketchikan :	18
Kenai :	15

BUDGET

FY 1984 court system annual budget: $36,960,000

Percentage increase over FY 1983 annual budget: 7.6%

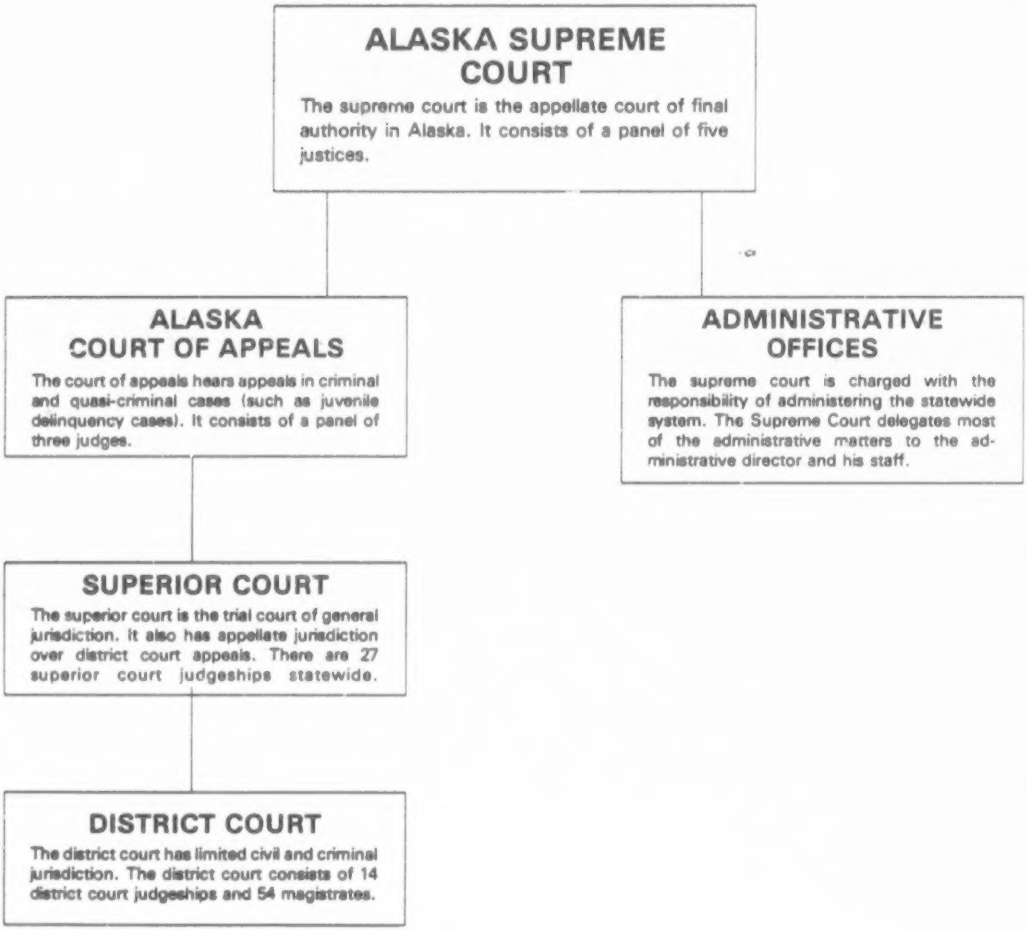
Percentage of FY 1984 annual state general fund budget: 2.0%

CASELOAD

Number of Cases Filed and Decided in FY 1984

Court	# of Cases FILED	% Change from FY 83	# of Cases DECIDED	% Change from FY 83
Supreme Court	541	+ 6%	567	+ 5%
Appeals Court	531	− 9%	526	− 11%
Superior Court	20,460	+ 11%	15,948	+ 9%
District Court	141,606	+ 6%	134,893	+ 3%

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZATION



ALASKA SUPREME COURT

The supreme court is the appellate court of final authority in Alaska. It consists of a panel of five justices.

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

The court of appeals hears appeals in criminal and quasi-criminal cases (such as juvenile delinquency cases). It consists of a panel of three judges.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The supreme court is charged with the responsibility of administering the statewide system. The Supreme Court delegates most of the administrative matters to the administrative director and his staff.

SUPERIOR COURT

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction. It also has appellate jurisdiction over district court appeals. There are 27 superior court judgeships statewide.

DISTRICT COURT

The district court has limited civil and criminal jurisdiction. The district court consists of 14 district court judgeships and 54 magistrates.

The Alaska judiciary has a unified, centrally administered, and totally state funded judicial system. County and municipal governments do not maintain a separate court system.

Profile of the Alaska Court System

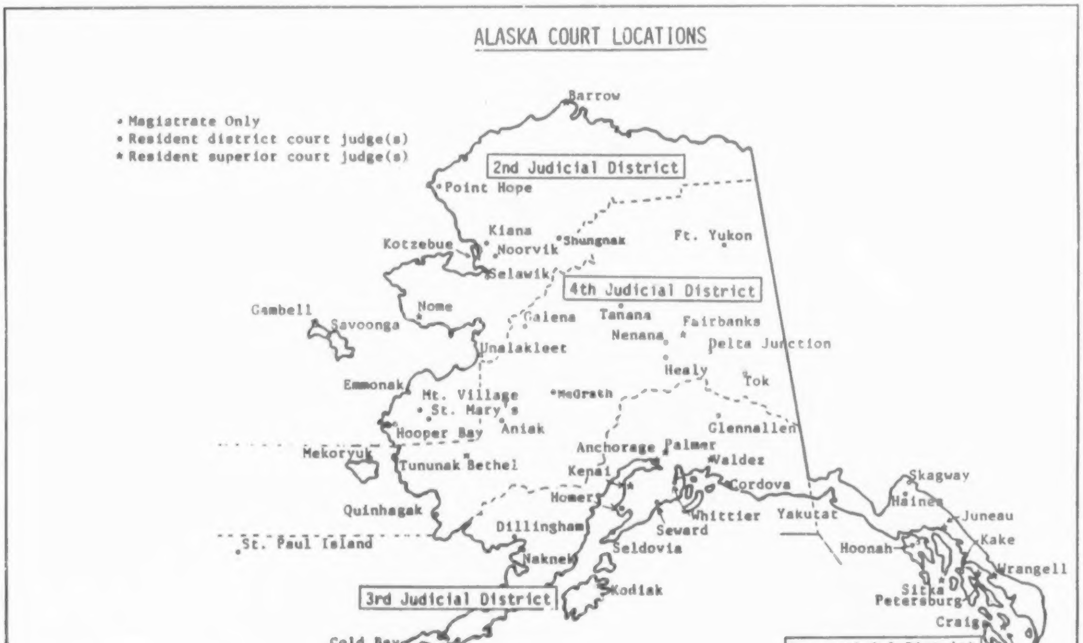
July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984
Fiscal Year 1984

Introduction

There are four levels of court in the Alaska Court System, each with different powers, duties and responsibilities. Alaska has no city, county or borough courts.

The chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court is the administrative head of the Alaska Court System. An administrative director is appointed by the chief justice with concurrence of the supreme court. The administrative director supervises the administration of all courts in the state.

The four levels of court in the Alaska Court System are the supreme court, the court of appeals, the superior court and the district court. The supreme court and the superior court were established in the Alaska Constitution. The district court was established by state statute in 1959. The court of appeals was established by state statute in 1980. Jurisdiction and other


ALASKA COURT LOCATIONS

• Magistrate Only
● Resident district court judge(s)
* Resident superior court judge(s)
Barrow
2nd Judicial District
Point Hope
Kotzebue
Kiana
Noorvik
Shungnak
Ft. Yukon
Selawik
4th Judicial District
Gambell
Savoonga
Nome
Galena
Tanana
Fairbanks
Nenana
Delta Junction
Unalakleet
Healy
Tok
Emmonak
Mt. Village
McGrath
St. Mary's
Glennallen
Hooper Bay
Aniak
Anchorage
Palmer
Mekoryuk
Tununak
Bethel
Valdez
Kenai
Cordova
Homer
Skagway
Haines
Quinhagak
Whittier
Yakutat
Juneau
Seward
Dillingham
Kake
St. Paul Island
Seldovia
Hoonah
Wrangell
Naknek
Sitka
3rd Judicial District
Kodiak
Petersburg
Craig
Cold Bay
1st Judicial District
Sand Point
Ketchikan
Unalaska
6/84

areas of judicial responsibility for each level of court are set out in Title 22 of the Alaska Statutes. Rules governing the administration of all courts as well as the rules of practice and procedure for civil and criminal cases are promulgated by the supreme court.

The Supreme Court

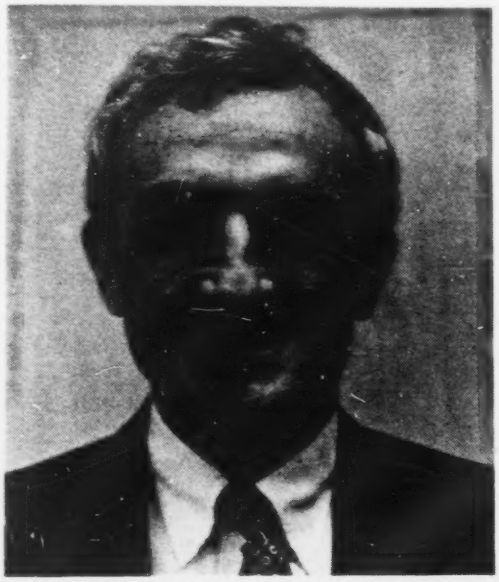
The Alaska Supreme Court is the highest level of state court in Alaska. The supreme court is comprised of the chief justice and four associate justices.

The five justices select one of their members to be the chief justice by majority vote. The chief justice holds that office for three years and may not serve consecutive terms.

During FY 1984,[1] the Honorable Edmond W. Burke continued as chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. Chief Justice Burke's term began October 1, 1981; it expired on September 30, 1984. Chief Justice Burke has served for ten years on the Alaska Supreme Court. He resides in Anchorage.

Chief Justice Edmond W. Burke

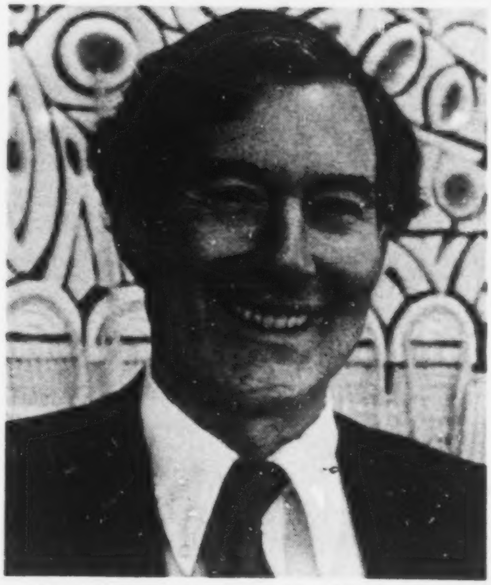
Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz is the senior member of the current court, having served for 20 years. Justice Rabinowitz resides in Fairbanks. On September 14, 1984, Justice Rabinowitz was elected to the chief justice position effective October 1, 1984.



Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz

---

[1] The court system's fiscal year is July 1 - June 30. FY 1984 is July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984.

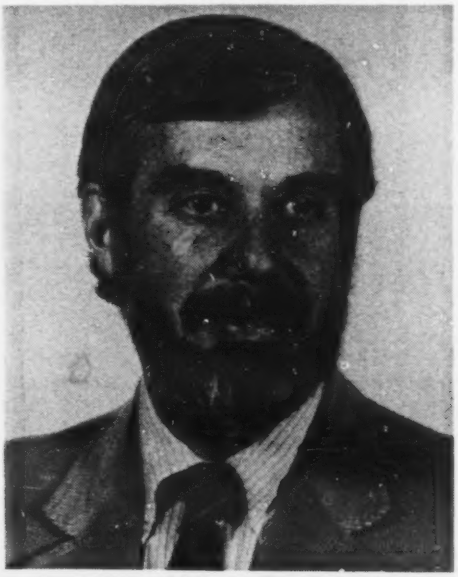


Justice Warren W. Matthews

Justice Warren W. Matthews, who resides in Anchorage, has been on the supreme court for eight years.

Justice Daniel A. Moore, Jr. has been a member of the supreme court for one year. He resides in Anchorage.

Justice Daniel A. Moore, Jr.



Justice Allen T. Compton

Justice Allen T. Compton has been a member of the supreme court for four years. When he was appointed to the supreme court in 1980 he resided in Juneau. He moved to Anchorage in September 1983.

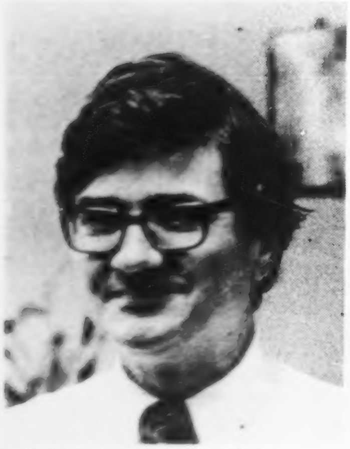
The supreme court hears cases on appeal from every location in the state. An appeal may be taken to the supreme court from a final judgment (that is, a judgment which substantially ends the court case) entered by the superior court in any *civil* action or proceeding. In *criminal* actions (and in certain quasi-criminal matters, like juvenile delinquency cases), the supreme court has the discretion to accept or deny litigants' requests that it review decisions made by the court of appeals. The supreme court may also take jurisdiction of a case pending before the court of appeals if the court of appeals certifies that the case involves a significant question of constitutional law or an issue of substantial public interest.

The Alaska Constitution grants the supreme court power to establish rules governing the administration of all courts in the state and rules governing practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases. The supreme court has also adopted other rules such as rules governing the practice of law in the State of Alaska, rules governing practice and procedure in children's matters, rules of probate procedure and rules of appellate procedure. The Alaska Legislature may change rules governing practice and procedure by an act expressing its intent to do so and passed by a two-thirds majority of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

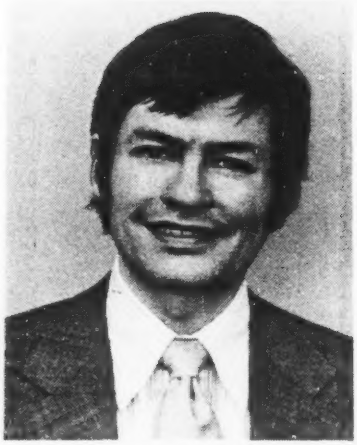
The supreme court meets approximately monthly to hear arguments and to confer on pending judicial and administrative matters. Arguments are heard by the five justices as a panel throughout the year on a monthly basis in Anchorage and Fairbanks, quarterly in Juneau and occasionally in other court locations. The supreme court will generally hear argument in the city where the case was heard in the trial court. Following argument or submission of the case on the basis of briefs without argument, the supreme court will decide the case, write an opinion and initiate its publication in the *Pacific Reporter*, the official regional reporter for the northwestern states.

The clerk's office of the appellate courts, which includes the supreme court and the court of appeals, is located in Anchorage. David Lampen was appointed clerk of the appellate courts in February 1984. The clerk is required to be an attorney, preferably with some appellate experience. Responsibilities of the clerk include monitoring the caseflow through the supreme court and the court of appeals, and making recommendations for improvements in appellate procedure. The clerk is also responsible for all case filing and calendaring, publishing opinions and related tasks. Deputy clerks are located in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks.

The Court of Appeals


Judge James Singleton

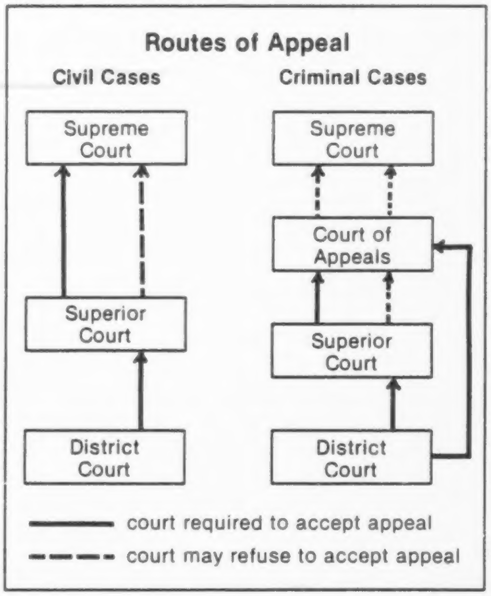
Chief Judge Alex Bryner


Judge Robert Coats

The court of appeals is a three judge panel created by the Alaska Legislature in 1980. All three judges appointed to the court in 1980 remain on the court. They all reside in Anchorage where the court of appeals regularly meets. The court of appeals rarely travels to other locations.

The court of appeals has the authority to hear appeals from judgments in criminal cases and certain other quasi-criminal cases in which a minor is accused of committing a crime (juvenile delinquency cases), cases in which prisoners are challenging the legality of their confinement (habeas corpus matters), and cases involving probation and parole decisions.

Criminal appeals from the district court can be taken to the superior court or to the court of appeals, at the option of the defendant. A defendant who appeals from district court to superior court can ask the court of appeals to review the resulting decision of the superior court, but the court of appeals may, in its discretion, refuse to hear the appeal.


Routes of Appeal

Civil Cases
Criminal Cases
Supreme Court
Superior Court
District Court
Supreme Court
Court of Appeals
Superior Court
District Court
court required to accept appeal
court may refuse to accept appeal

The Superior Court

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction with original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters. The superior court serves as an appellate court for appeals from the district court. Appeals to the superior court from final judgments from the district court are a matter of right. The superior court has the exclusive power to hear all domestic relations matters (for example, divorces and dissolution of marriage cases), cases involving children who have committed crimes or who are abused or neglected, cases involving the property of dead persons or incompetent persons, and cases involving the involuntary commitments of persons to institutions for the mentally ill.

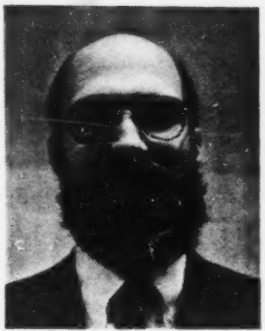
On January 11, 1984, Governor Sheffield appointed Anchorage attorney Karen Hunt to the superior court in Anchorage. On May 29, 1984, Anchorage District Court Judge John Bosshard, III, was appointed to the newly-created superior court seat in Valdez. The 1984 session of the legislature created two additional superior court judgeships to be located at Anchorage. However, at the end of FY 1984, these positions remained vacant.

The State of Alaska is divided into four judicial districts. The boundaries of the districts are defined by state statute. The judicial districts define the boundaries for judicial retention elections (at which voters of the state indicate their approval or rejection of judges and justices).

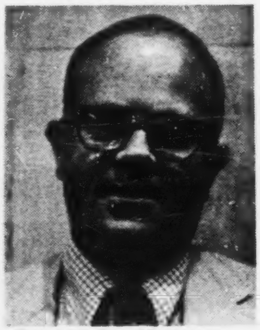
The chief justice designates a superior court judge from each of Alaska's four judicial districts to serve as presiding judge for that district for a term of one calendar year. The presiding judge, in addition to regular judicial duties, is responsible for the administration of the trial courts within the district, including assignment of cases, supervision of court personnel, efficient handling of court business and appointment of magistrates.

Superior Court Judges of the First Judicial District

Presiding Judge
Thomas E. Schulz
Appointed 1974
Ketchikan



Walter Carpeneti
Appointed 1981
Juneau

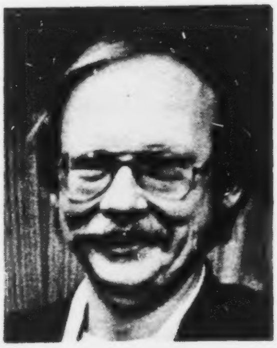


Duane Craske
Appointed 1976
Sitka

Henry C. Keene, Jr.
Appointed 1982
Wrangell/Petersburg

Roger Pegues
Appointed 1981
Juneau

Superior Court Judges of the Second Judicial District



Presiding Judge
Charles Tunley
Appointed 1980
Nome

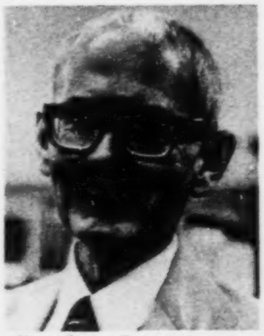
Michael Jeffery
Appointed 1982
Barrow

Christopher Cooke
Appointed 1976
Bethel

Paul Jones
Appointed 1980
Kotzebue

Superior Court Judges of the Third Judicial District

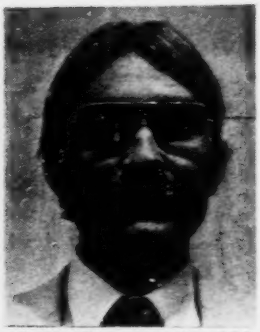
Presiding Judge
Mark Rowland
Appointed 1977
Anchorage



Charles Cranston
Appointed 1981
Kenai

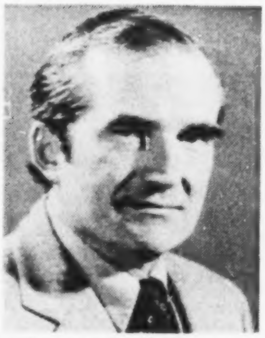
Roy Madsen
Appointed 1975
Kodiak

Beverly Cutler
Appointed 1982
Palmer



John Bosshard, III
Appointed 1984
Valdez

S. J. Buckalew, Jr.
Appointed 1973
Anchorage

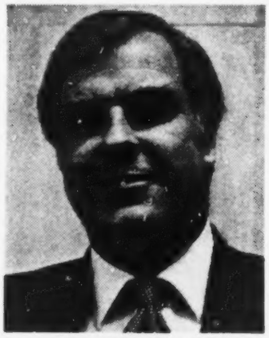


Victor Carlson
Appointed 1970
Anchorage

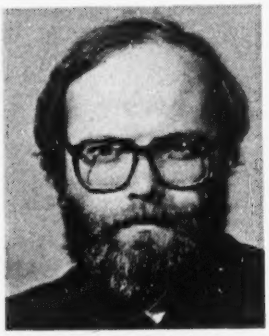
Karen Hunt
Appointed 1984
Anchorage

Karl Johnstone
Appointed 1979
Anchorage

Ralph Moody
Appointed 1962
Anchorage

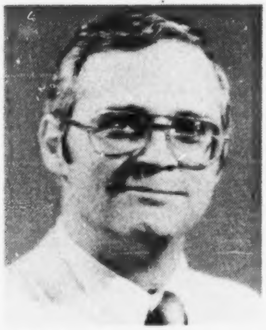


J. Justin Ripley
Appointed 1975
Anchorage



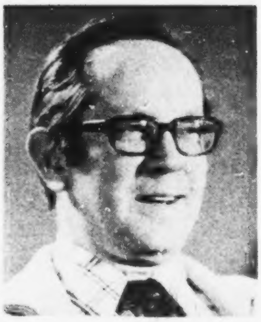
Douglas Serdahely
Appointed 1980
Anchorage

Brian Shortell
Appointed 1980
Anchorage

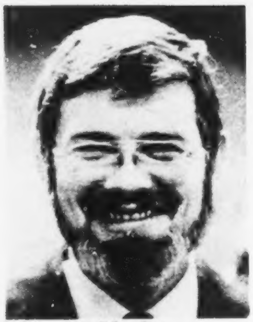


Milton Souter
Appointed 1978
Anchorage

Superior Court Judges of the Fourth Judicial District

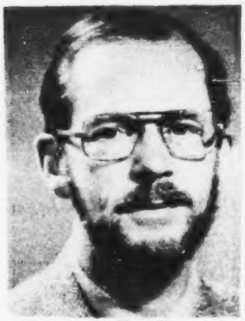


Presiding Judge
Gerald Van Hoomissen
Appointed 1970
Fairbanks

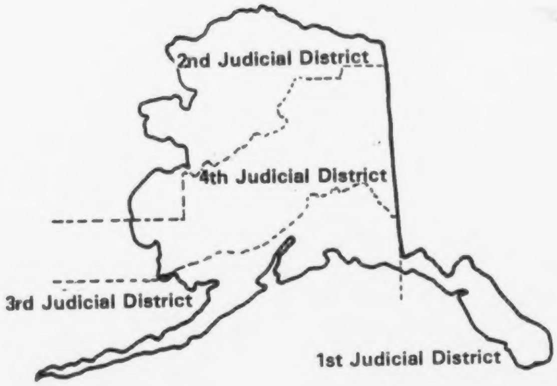


James Blair
Appointed 1975
Fairbanks

Jay Hodges
Appointed 1976
Fairbanks



Warren Taylor
Appointed 1965
Fairbanks


2nd Judicial District
4th Judicial District
3rd Judicial District
1st Judicial District

The District Court

The Alaska Constitution provides that the legislature shall establish such lower or inferior courts as may be necessary. In 1959, the legislature created a district court for each judicial district, and granted to the supreme court the power to increase or decrease the number of district court judges within each judicial district. As of June 30, 1984, there were 12 district court judges in Alaska.

In criminal matters, a district court judge has jurisdiction over all state misdemeanor violations (minor criminal offenses) and violations of city and borough ordinances. A judge may issue arrest warrants and search warrants, and acts as examining magistrate in arraignments in criminal proceedings, which must occur within 24 hours after arrest. A district court judge also handles first appearances and preliminary hearings in felony cases.

A district court judge may perform other tasks including issuing absentee ballots in some areas of the state and recording vital statistics. The judge also serves as coroner, holds inquests and acts as a temporary caretaker of the property of deceased persons.

In civil matters the district court judge may hear cases for recovery of money or damages not exceeding $10,000 and for recovery of specific personal property when the value claimed does not exceed $10,000. In motor vehicle accident cases, the civil jurisdiction in district court is $15,000. A district court judge may handle small claims actions up to $2,000, and may temporarily detain juveniles in emergency situations. The criminal and civil jurisdiction of the district court extends over the whole of the state.

One new district court judge was appointed to the bench in FY 1984. Governor Sheffield appointed Juneau attorney Linn H. Asper to the Juneau district court in June of 1984. Judge Asper filled the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Gerald Williams. Anchorage District Court Judge Warren Tucker retired after 15 years on the bench. Judge John Bosshard, III, left the Anchorage district court bench when he was appointed to the superior court position in Valdez. In addition, the 1984 session of the legislature funded two additional district court judgeships to be located at Anchorage. These positions remained vacant at the end of FY 1984.

District Court Judges of the First Judicial District

George Gucker
Appointed 1983
Ketchikan

Linn Asper
Appointed 1984
Juneau

District Court Judges of the Third Judicial District

Glen Anderson
Appointed 1978
Anchorage

Elaine Andrews
Appointed 1981
Anchorage

Natalie Finn
Appointed 1983
Anchorage

William Fuld
Appointed 1983
Anchorage

John Mason
Appointed 1970
Anchorage

James Hornaday
Appointed 1976
Homer

District Court Judges of the Fourth Judicial District

Stephen Cline
Appointed 1978
Fairbanks

Hugh Connelly
Appointed 1960
Fairbanks

H. E. Crutchfield
Appointed 1980
Fairbanks

Jane Kauvar
Appointed 1981
Fairbanks

In the smaller, generally rural areas of the state, where the services of a full-time district court judge are not required, magistrates preside over some district court matters. Magistrates also serve in most metropolitan areas to handle routine matters and ease the workload of the district court. As of June 30, 1984, there were 40 court locations in Alaska in which a magistrate was the highest ranking judicial officer.

A magistrate is not required to be a lawyer. The magistrate is a judicial officer of the district court whose authority is more limited than the authority of a district court judge. In small claims cases, the magistrate may award damages up to $2,000 (in formal cases, $1,000). A magistrate may also issue summonses, writs of habeas corpus (that is, challenges to the legality of a person's confinement in a jail or other restricted environment) and marriage licenses; enforce orders and judgments of the superior court, perform the duties of coroner (including inquests) and notary public; record vital statistics such as births, deaths, and marriages; and issue absentee ballots. A magistrate also has emergency authority in children's matters.

In criminal matters, the magistrate may enter a judgment of conviction upon a plea of guilty to any state misdemeanor. The magistrate may hear, hold a trial and enter judgment in state misdemeanors if the defendants agree in writing to be tried by the magistrate. Magistrates may also hear trials of municipal ordinance violations and state traffic infractions without consent of the accused and may impose sentence in such cases. A magistrate may preside over felony preliminary examinations, which are hearings in felony cases to determine whether or not there is enough evidence against the person charged to justify the case continuing to trial. Finally, magistrates may issue warrants of arrest, summonses and search warrants.

FIRST DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Seated left to right: Rick Siangco, Juneau; Marilyn Hanson, Sitka; Kathy Stewart, Petersburg; Carole Baekey, Judicial Education Coordinator; Superior Court Judge Duane Craske. Second row: John Howard, Angoon; Linda Hartshorn, Wrangell; Terry Gallagher, Yakutat; Maxine Savland, Hoonah; Jean Worley, Skagway. Third Row: Area Court Administrator Kris Carlisle; Elizabeth Dennis, Craig; Bill Cheney, Kake; Carl Heinmiller, Haines; Susan Thomsen, Ketchikan; Ketchikan Superior Court Judge Thomas Schulz.

NEW MAGISTRATE CONFERENCE: Seated left to right: Willie Naneng, Hooper Bay; Linda Carrigan, Craig; Jeanne Cross, Barrow. Second Row: Stephanie Cole, Deputy Director for Services; Jeneane Moore, Magistrate Training Assistant; Ross Cushman, Third District Rural Court Training Assistant; Anita Greist, Selawik; Carole Baekey, Judicial Education Coordinator; Billy Atseriak, Quinhagak. Third row: Fairbanks District Court Judge Steve Cline; Dennis Nelson, Kodiak; Cary Graves, Nome; Geoffrey Comfort, Dillingham; Paul Verhagen, Tanana.

ACTING MAGISTRATE CONFERENCE: Seated left to right: Stephanie Cole, Deputy Director for Services; May Pannick, Kotzebue; Tracee Schnell, Valdez; Vicki Bukovick, Kodiak; Geraldine Jenck, Ketchikan. Second row: Janet Tobuk, Nome; Sally Mauldin, Homer; Tracy Blais, Delta Junction; Robin Turnbull, Kenai; Carole Baekey, Judicial Education Coordinator; Maureen Wentz, Dillingham; Jeneane Moore, Magistrate Training Assistant. Third row: Charlotte Swanberg, Sitka; Mary Hawkins, Unalaska; Joanne Pilcher, Petersburg; Janet Moore, Seward; Susan Weltz, Cordova; Fairbanks District Court Judge Stephen Cline.

BETHEL AREA CONFERENCE: Seated left to right: Dick Lincoln, Tununak; Marge Lori, Field Auditor; Dorothy Kameroff, Emmonak; Alice Smith, Mekoryuk; Jeneane Moore, Magistrate Training Assistant. Standing: Matt Andrews, St. Mary's; Willie Naneng, Hooper Bay; Marie Beans, Mt. Village; Stephanie Cole, Deputy Director for Services; Billy Atseriak, Quinhagak; Carole Baekey, Judicial Education Coordinator; Craig McMahon, Aniak.

Statewide Court Administration

Statewide court administration is the responsibility of the chief justice of the supreme court. By court rule, this responsibility is delegated to the administrative director of the courts subject to general guidelines set forth by the supreme court.

The Judicial Appointment Process

Supreme court justices and judges of the court of appeals, superior court and district court are appointed by the governor of the State of Alaska from lists of qualified candidates submitted to the governor by the Alaska Judicial Council. All appointments are made by the governor within 45 days of receipt of these nominations.

To be eligible for appointment to the supreme court, a person must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Alaska for five years prior to appointment. A justice must be licensed to practice law in the state at the time of appointment and have engaged in the active practice of law for eight years.

A court of appeals judge must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the state for five years immediately preceding appointment, have been engaged for not less than eight years immediately preceding appointment in the active practice of law, and at the time of appointment be licensed to practice law in the state.

The qualifications of a judge of the superior court are the same as for a supreme court justice, except that only five years of active practice are necessary.

A district court judge must be 21 years of age, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the state for at least five years, and (1) be licensed to practice law in Alaska and have been engaged in the active practice of law for not less than three years immediately preceding appointment or (2) have served for at least seven years as a magistrate in the state, and have graduated from an accredited law school.

Magistrates are not appointed by the governor nor are their qualifications reviewed by the Alaska Judicial Council. Their appointments are made for an indefinite period by the presiding superior court judge of the judicial district in which they will serve. Each magistrate serves at the pleasure of the presiding superior court judge of the judicial district.

A magistrate does not have to be a lawyer. The qualifications of a magistrate are that the individual be 21 years old, a United States citizen, and a citizen of Alaska for six months prior to appointment.

Each supreme court justice and each judge of the court of appeals is subject to approval or rejection by a majority of the voters of the state on a nonpartisan ballot at the first general eletion held more than three years after appointment. Thereafter, each justice must participate in a retention election every ten years; each court of appeals judge must participate every eight years.

Each superior court judge is subject to approval or rejection by the voters of the judicial district at the first general election held more than three years after the judge's appointment. Thereafter, the judge is subject to approval or rejection every sixth year. Each district court judge must also run in a retention election in the judicial district, at the first general election held more than one year after appointment and in a like manner every fourth year thereafter. No general election was held in fiscal year 1984 so no judges ran for retention.

State laws which require judges to participate in retention elections do not apply to magistrates.

The Alaska Legislature annually appropriates from the state general fund all funds for operating the Alaska Court System. A statewide budget for all trial courts, the appellate courts and court administration is prepared centrally by the administrative office. Revenues generated by the courts are deposited in the state general fund, except those originating out of municipal ordinance violations, which are returned to the respective municipalities.

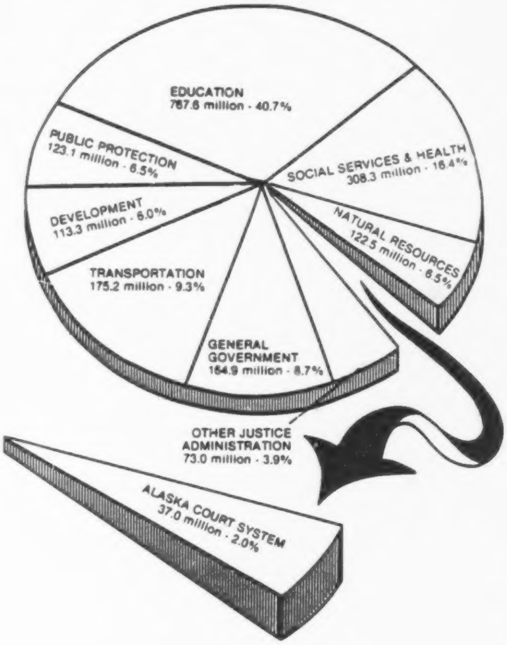
The judicial budget has grown steadily for the past several years at a rate of approximately eight percent per year. These increases have been primarily a result of inflation, with a minimal increase for additional resources. Statewide, court caseloads have generally increased at a steady but moderate pace.

The court system operating budget accounts for approximately 2.0% of the total state general fund budget. The actual expenditures incurred by the court system during fiscal year 1982 were $30,009,400; fiscal year 1983, $34,349,600; and fiscal year 1984, $36,960,000.

The budget process for the court system begins with the submission of budget requests by the various trial courts to the administrative office. These requests are reviewed with each district and are modified to fit into an overall state budget plan.

STATE OF ALASKA FISCAL YEAR 1984

OPERATING BUDGET
GENERAL FUND



Total General Fund Budget = 1884.9 million

Following legislative review and appropriation, funds are then allocated to the various judicial districts, the appellate courts and the administrative office. The appropriation covers all costs of the judicial branch in the state including judges' salaries, facility rent, clerks' offices and administrative support.

Personnel costs, at the 1984 level of $27,169,200, represent approximately 74% of the

STATEWIDE BUDGET FOR ALASKA COURT SYSTEM - FISCAL YEAR 1984

Operating Budget Element	FY 84 Expenditures (thousands)	Full-Time Positions Judges/ Justices	Full-Time Positions Magistrates	Full-Time Positions Support Personnel
Appellate Courts	$ 3,435.1	8		41
Trial Courts:				
1st District	4,183.6	7	11	46
2nd District	2,417.0	3	17	16
3rd District	15,536.5	22	14	230
4th District	7,483.0	9	14	85
Administration	3,904.8			56
Total	$36,960.0	49	56	474

total operating budget. Expenses for rent, maintenance and insurance on court facilities in 55 locations across the state amounted to $1,177,900. Jury expenses amounted to $1,184,500 and attorney fees of $2,564,400 were paid (attorneys are contracted to serve as guardians ad litem in children's cases and to represent indigent defendants in cases where conflicts of interest exist within the Public Defender Agency). Due to the remoteness of many court locations and the distances between various courts, approximately $910,400 was spent for travel expenses, including juror travel and per diem. Other operating expenses of the court, including commodities, phones, postage, and equipment rental, make up approximately $3,953,600 of the annual expense of the court.

The court system annually collects over four million dollars in revenues for deposit in the state general fund. In fiscal year 1984, the revenue generated from fines and forfeitures amounted to $3,333,800; civil case filing fees ($50.00 superior court, $25.00 district court, $5.00 small claims) $638,700; clerical fees (notary, transcript, copies); miscellaneous receipts, $345,400; and cost recoveries, $263,600.

Alaska Judicial Council

The Alaska Judicial Council, which operates independently of the court system, has been created by the state constitution to perform two primary functions: (1) to solicit, screen and nominate applicants for gubernatorial appointments to vacant judgeship positions and (2) to conduct studies for the improvement in the administration of justice and make recommendations to the legislature and the supreme court. The council is comprised of the chief justice, who serves as chairman and ex officio member; three attorney members appointed by the board of governors of the Alaska Bar Association; and three non-attorney members appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. These six members serve for six terms.

The judicial council, which must report to the legislature and the supreme court at least once every two years, is assisted by a full-time executive director and his support staff. For more information regarding the functions of the Alaska Judicial Council, call (907) 279-2526.

Commission on Judicial Conduct

The Commission on Judicial Conduct, created by the state constitution, operates independently of the court system.

The commission consists of nine members: three state court judges or justices, three lawyers with at least 10 years experience in the practice of law in Alaska, and three persons who are not lawyers or judges. The commission investigates complaints against state judges and justices. The commission has the power to reprimand a justice or judge either publicly or privately. The commission may also refer matters to the supreme court with a recommendation that a judge be suspended, removed or retired from office or publicly or privately censured by the supreme court.

In calendar year 1983, the commission received 69 complaints, 25 of which were still unresolved at the end of 1983. In calendar year 1983, the commission issued two private reprimands. No public reprimands were issued, and no matters were referred to the supreme court for proposed disciplinary action.

For more information regarding the Commission on Judicial Conduct, call (907) 264-0528.

Appellate Courts

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE APPELLATE COURTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1984

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Introduction 27

Supreme Court. 27

  Explanation of Statistical Categories. 27

  Filings. 28

  Dispositions 29

  Pending Caseload 31

  Time Required for Disposition of Cases 31

  Petitions for Hearing. 32

Court of Appeals 33

  Filings. 33

  Dispositions 34

  Pending Caseload 35

  Time Required for Disposition of Cases 36

Tables: 37

  Table I: Supreme Court - Recapitulation 37

  Table II: Supreme Court - Dispositions 38

  Table III: Supreme Court - Historical 39

  Table IV: Supreme Court - Reasons for Cases Pending June 30, 1984. 40

  Table V: Supreme Court - Length of Time to Disposition. 41

  Table VI: Alaska Supreme Court and Court of Appeals - Backlog Months 42

  Table VII: Court of Appeals - Recapitulation. 43

  Table VIII: Court of Appeals - Dispositions. 44

  Table IX: Court of Appeals - Historical. 45

  Table X: Court of Appeals - Reasons for Cases Pending June 30, 1984. 46

  Table XI: Court of Appeals - Length of Time to Disposition. 47

Report On The Activity Of The Appellate Courts For Fiscal Year 1984

Introduction

Fiscal year 1984 was an active, demanding and eventful period for both the Alaska Supreme Court and the Alaska Court of Appeals. The period marked the last full year of Edmond W. Burke's term as chief justice. He stepped down as chief justice on September 30, 1984. Justice Daniel A. Moore, Jr. joined the court early in the new term after his appointment on July 10, 1983. Justice Allen T. Compton moved his chambers from Juneau to Anchorage in September of 1983. The court continued its longstanding practice of hearing oral argument regularly in Anchorage and Fairbanks and several times a year in Juneau. In February of 1984 an automated docketing system was introduced in the office of the clerk of the appellate courts. The system has already helped speed and improve the processing of new filings.

Appellate Court Clerk
David Lampen

The court of appeals completed its fourth year of operation. Chief Judge Bryner and Judges Coats and Singleton have served as members of the court since its inception in 1980. This continuity has assisted the court in its efforts to expeditiously process and decide the substantial caseload facing the judges. The court sits regularly in Anchorage and Fairbanks to hear oral argument.

Statistically, new filings increased in the supreme court, as did total dispositions. The supreme court reduced the pending backlog of civil appeals, and by the end of FY 84 there were fewer pending matters than there had been at the end of the prior year.

In the court of appeals, new filings decreased slightly from the prior year, but still remained at a high level. The court had another productive year in terms of dispositions of cases. The number of pending cases at the end of the year remained approximately the same as at the end of the prior year.

Supreme Court

EXPLANATION OF STATISTICAL CATEGORIES

The supreme court's caseload is divided into five statistical categories.

Civil Appeals - A party has the right to appeal a final judgment in a civil case to the supreme court.

Criminal Appeals - An aggrieved party who is not satisfied with a decision in the court of appeals does not have an automatic right to have the supreme court consider the matter. Rather, the party must file a petition for hearing, asking the supreme court to exercise its discretion and agree to hear the case. A petition for hearing may be filed in three types of cases: (a) review of a decision by the court of appeals on a final appeal of the merits of a conviction; (b) review of a ruling by the court of appeals on a petition for review of an interlocutory order of the trial court; and (c) review of a ruling by the court of appeals in a criminal appeal of a district court judgment to the superior court and then by petition for hearing to the court of appeals. A petition for hearing to the supreme court that arises in any of these contexts is included in the heading "criminal appeals."

Sentence Appeals - This category includes petitions for hearing to the supreme court which only raise issues involving sentences imposed on criminal defendants.

Petition for Review - A party may petition the supreme court to review an interlocutory decision of the trial court while the case is still proceeding in the lower court. As with a petition for hearing, there is no automatic right of appeal and the supreme court has discretion to decide whether to hear the matter. This type of application is limited to civil cases.

Original Applications - There are a number of types of proceedings that do not involve appellate review of a specific ruling by a lower court. Instead, the application for relief is initially filed with the supreme court. These proceedings include bar admission and attorney discipline matters, and cases referred to the supreme court under Appellate Rule 407 in which a federal court has certified that questions of state law are present for which there is no controlling precedent in the decisions of the supreme court.

FILINGS (Table I)

A total of 539 cases were filed or reinstated[1] in the Alaska Supreme Court during FY 84. This represents an increase of 6% from the 509 filed during FY 83 and a 32% increase over the total of 409 in FY 82. Thus, while the creation of the court of appeals in 1980 altered the jurisdiction of the supreme court and led to an initial decrease in the number of filings from the levels in prior years when no intermediate appellate court existed, filings in the supreme court have steadily increased ever since. If this filing trend continues as expected, total filings will soon equal supreme court filings in the late 1970's when the court had sole jurisdiction over all appeals.

---

[1] Hereafter, all references to "filings" include both new filings and reinstatement of cases previously closed. There were 536 new filings and 4 cases reinstated in FY 84.

The number of civil appeals filed rose from 271 in FY 83 to 300 in FY 84, a 10% increase. The number of original applications increased slightly, from 19 in FY 83 to 20 new filings in FY 84.

The total number of discretionary applications to the supreme court decreased slightly from 238 filed in FY 83 to 227 in FY 84. This overall 5% decline was due primarily to the reduction in the number of petitions for hearing filed in criminal merit appeals. The number of these petitions dropped from 92 in FY 83 to 79 in FY 84, a 14% decline. The number of petitions for hearing filed in sentence appeals remained steady, dropping from 14 last year to 13 filed this year. For the third year in a row, the number of petitions for review of interlocutory orders in civil cases increased. The jump from 113 in FY 83 to 129 in FY 84 represents a 14% increase. The number of petitions for review filed is now approaching the high levels attained in the late 1970's when the supreme court entertained interlocutory petitions in both criminal and civil matters.

DISPOSITIONS (Table II)

The supreme court had a very productive year in FY 84, disposing of a total of 567 matters. This amounts to a 5% increase over the 538 total dispositions in FY 83.

The number of dispositions in discretionary applications remained steady from the prior year. A total of 220 petitions for hearing and review were decided in FY 84, compared with 213 in FY 83. The number of original applications decided rose from 18 last year to 22 this year. The real change in dispositions came with civil appeals where the court surpassed last year's high level. The court decided 325 civil appeals, a 6% increase over the 307 resolved in FY 83.

Lilia Cook, Secretary to Chief Justice Burke

Charlotte McMullen, Secretary to Justice Rabinowitz

Not only did the total number of dispositions increase, but the number of cases decided on the merits rose to 257, a 7% increase over last year's total of 241. Another 310 cases were decided on some grounds other than the merits of the case. In this latter group, 190 petitions were denied in FY 84, a slight increase from the total of 179 in FY 83. Another 120 cases were dismissed, either based upon a motion by one or both of the parties or upon the court's own motion. The vast majority of these dismissals occurred before the court had begun considering the merits of a case, and so relatively little judicial effort was expended.

The court issued 148 published opinions during FY 84. This is down slightly from the 172 published in FY 83, but approximately the same number as the 140 released in FY 82. The court also issued 43 unpublished Memorandum Opinion and Judgments (MO&Js). This marked a noticeable shift in the court's practice because the court had issued only 21 MO&Js in FY 83. The court was able to dispose of these 43 cases without the effort and time necessary to prepare a formal opinion for publication in each matter. This shift is reflected in the publication percentage, which dropped from 87% in FY 82 and 89% in FY 83 to 77% in FY 84.

Another approach to analyzing disposition figures is to compare these numbers with the new filing totals, in order to determine whether the court managed to stay current or reduce its backlog, or whether it fell behind as new filings were added to its caseload. For the fourth year in a row, the court disposed of more cases than were filed during the same period. The court also made progress in disposing of pending civil appeals. By the early 1980's, the court had built up a considerable backlog of pending civil cases, and it was falling further behind each year as filings outpaced dispositions. But in FY 82 the court disposed of more civil appeals than were filed. In FY 84, the court disposed of 8% more civil cases than were filed (325 versus 300). Although the total annual gain is not substantial, control over the civil appeal backlog could be achieved in several years if this trend continues.

PENDING CASELOAD
(Tables IV and VI)

The number of pending cases at the end of the term declined for the fourth year in a row. On June 30, 1984 there were 360 pending cases, a 7% decrease from the 386 pending at the end of FY 83. The success of the court in disposing of civil appeals was evident in the year-end figures, which showed 291 civil appeals pending compared with 316 one year earlier.

Breaking down the cases pending at the end of the year based upon the step in the appellate process that the case has reached reveals one troubling development. In FY 83, 51% of the pending cases (198 of 386 total cases) were awaiting the record, the briefs, or submission to the court. Another 35% of the total were submitted to the court but not decided. By the end of FY 84, the number of pending cases under advisement and awaiting decision by the court had decreased, both in terms of total numbers (106 out of 360 pending cases) and as a percentage of all pending cases (29%). However, the number of cases awaiting the filing of the record or briefs or submission of the case to the court had increased to 61% of the cases pending at the end of the year (225 of 360).

Paula Zawodny, Secretary to Justice Matthews

The most notable increase came in cases awaiting briefs, which in FY 83 accounted for 22% of pending cases. By the end of FY 84, this category had increased to 37% of the total. The exact cause of this increase is unclear, but it appears that more extensions of time to file briefs are being requested by counsel and granted by the court.

When this large block of pending cases is finally perfected, there will be a substantial number of appeals awaiting action by the court within the six-month statutory time limit.

TIME REQUIRED FOR DISPOSITION OF CASES
(Table V)

For the third year in a row, the court reduced the average time it took to dispose of a civil appeal in the supreme court. Yet average disposition time remained high. Ideally, an appeal to the supreme court should be completed in 10.8 months, based on the following time periods which are specified in the appellate rules and the internal procedures of the court:

Betty Doucette, Secretary to Justice Compton

Record certification	40 days
Briefing (assuming service by mail)	89 days
Last brief to argument or submission	56 days
Argument to circulation of draft opinion	90 days
Voting on draft opinion	30 days
Lead time for publication	10 days
Return of record	10 days
	325 days (10.8 months)

This schedule does not take into account extensions of time to file briefs, or the time required to revise draft opinions and to prepare concurring opinions or dissents.

Disposition time in FY 84 exceeded the goal by 7.6 months. The average time from the filing of the notice of appeal to the appeal closing was 558 days in FY 84, a 6% decrease from 593 days in FY 83.

The average time required for the preparation of a civil record remained approximately the same as the figure from one year ago, with a small decline from 72 days to 70 days for cases decided in FY 84. Given the increase in the number of appeals, the backlog in the trial court clerks' offices, and the increasing frequency of appeals with very long records, only small decreases in this figure can be anticipated.

The average time required to brief a civil appeal decreased from 156 days in FY 83 to 147 days in FY 84. This figure is still high, and could be decreased by tougher scrutiny of motions for extensions of time to file briefs.

The average time that a civil appeal was under advisement fell by 9% from 244 days in FY 83 to 221 days this year. While this reduction is encouraging, the average is still above desirable levels. Additional efforts by the court will be required in order to sustain the trend over the past few years of reducing the average time a case is under advisement.

PETITIONS FOR HEARING

The supreme court's power to hear appeals from decisions of the court of appeals has been exercised sparingly. In FY 84, the court considered 110 petitions, including some petitions pending from FY 83. The court granted 15 (14%), a slight increase from the 13% rate in FY 83. Ninety-five petitions were denied (86%).

The court of appeals disposed of 402 cases on the merits during FY 84. Ninety-two petitions for hearing were filed during the same period. Thus, in only 23% of the cases disposed of by the court of appeals was review sought with the supreme court. Multiplying this filing rate by the percentage grant rate shows that the supreme court decided on the merits only 3% of the cases decided on the merits by the court of appeals.

Court of Appeals

FILINGS (Table VII)

While the number of filings and dispositions during FY 84 were high, they did not quite equal those of the previous year.

A total of 531 new cases were filed or reinstated in the court of appeals. This total includes 312 merit appeals (in which a party raises issues on appeal going to the merits of the conviction), 150 sentence appeals (in which a party appeals the sentence imposed), 64 petitions (matters in which a party requests that the court of appeals exercise its discretion in reviewing a ruling in a pending trial court matter or requests the court of appeals to review a decision of the superior court sitting on appeal from a district court ruling), and 5 original matters (cases filed initially with the court of appeals). This total reflects an overall 9% decline from FY 83. The number of new merit appeals declined 8% while the number of new sentence appeals dropped 10%. The number of petitions decreased by 12%, but the number of original applications increased by 67%. In spite of this decline in the number of new filings compared with the totals for last year, the total number of filings was still substantial and was a considerable increase over prior years of this court's existence.

A more accurate picture of the caseload that faced the court of appeals in FY 84 can be obtained by dividing the new filings into felony and misdemeanor appeals. Felony appeals normally involve more serious crimes. The trials are usually longer and more complicated, as reflected in longer records on appeal. The

Sophie Veker, Secretary to Justice Moore

Ellen Anderson, Floating Secretary to the Supreme Court

issues in these matters tend to be more complicated and difficult to resolve. Since misdemeanor appeals involve lesser crimes and shorter trials, they should be resolved more expeditiously on appeal.

The number of felony appeals filed in FY 83 (365) was unusually high. This year 334 felony appeals were filed, a decrease of 8%. The number of misdemeanor appeals filed declined by 10% from 142 in FY 83 to 128 this year.

Many of the factors that impacted upon the court of appeals' caseload in past years continued to influence the level of filings in FY 84. Increases in trial court criminal filings and dispositions resulted in more potential appeals. Efforts to combat drunken driving resulted in more alcohol-related appeals.

Presumptive sentencing, introduced in 1980 and expanded in 1982, has tended to increase the length of sentences imposed and to reduce the proportion of defendants eligible for probation or parole. A defendant who receives a prison term is much more likely to appeal the sentence or the conviction, or both, than is someone who is released on a suspended sentence or probation. Presumptive sentencing adds to the pool of cases in which an appeal may be filed.

DISPOSITIONS (Table VIII)

The court of appeals had a very productive year, disposing of 526 cases - the second highest total in the history of this court. These dispositions included 402 cases decided on the merits, 50 petitions and original applications where the court exercised its discretionary power and declined to hear the matter, and 74 other cases dismissed either by the parties or the court itself. The number of decisions filed in merit appeals declined by 20%. Two percent fewer sentence appeals were decided, but the number of petitions and original applications decided rose by 7%.

The 526 dispositions included 184 felony merit appeals, 92 misdemeanor appeals, 168 sentence appeals and 82 petitions and original applications.

The number of felony merit appeals decided declined by 3% from FY 83. The number of misdemeanor appeals resolved decreased by 42%. The number of sentence appeals disposed of declined by 4%. The number of petitions and original applications decided increased by 8%.

The decline this year in the total number of dispositions centered on one type of case: misdemeanor appeals. In the crucial areas of felony appeals, which are the most difficult cases, and sentence appeals, where speed in resolving an appeal is critical, the court of appeals remained almost even with the very high levels of productivity reached last year.

The court continued to be unable to dispose of pending felony matters as fast as new cases were filed. Yet the court managed to come closer to achieving this goal in FY 84 than in FY 83. In FY 83, 306 felony appeals were decided, but 365 new cases were filed, adding 59 new cases to the FY 84 backlog. This year, 294 felony appeals were decided, but 334 were added. The net result was 40 cases added to the backlog. The court fell behind considerably on misdemeanor appeals and its backlog at the end of the year in this type of case increased noticeably. In FY 83, 143 misdemeanor appeals were decided while 142 new cases were filed. In FY 84, 85 cases were decided, but 128 new ones were filed.

Not all of the dispositions issued by the court of appeals are published in a reporter service. During FY 84, 120 opinions (33% of the total) were released and forwarded for publication. The remaining 242 dispositions were not published.

PENDING CASELOAD
(Tables VI and X)

Open files in the court of appeals on June 30, 1984, totaled 443. This represents an increase of only 2% over the total pending caseload at the end of last year. Thus, the court was able to dispose of almost as many cases as were filed and the growth in the backlog was relatively small.

The percentage of pending cases awaiting preparation of transcripts or briefs and ready for submission to the court for consideration rose slightly from 58% in FY 83 to 60% at the end of FY 84. The number of appeals under advisement and awaiting decision declined from 34% of the total open files in FY 83 (149 of 436) to 31% of the total this year (146 of 443).

At current disposition rates it would take the court of appeals just over 16 months to dispose of the felony merit appeals pending at the end of this year, and just under 13 months for misdemeanor appeals. The figure for felony merit appeals is up slightly from last year's figure of 14.9 months, reflecting both the continued high rate of filings and a slight decrease in the disposition rate. Disposition time for misdemeanor merit appeals increased from 6.7 to 12.9 months. Disposition rates for sentence appeals continued to decline.

TIME REQUIRED FOR DISPOSITION OF CASES
(Table XI)

Despite increased filings, timely disposition of cases remains a goal. For the third year in a row, the court reduced the average time period required for disposition in each category of criminal case. The averages for each category during FY 84 were 505 days for felony merit appeals, 330 days for misdemeanor merit appeals, 308 days for felony sentence appeals and 238 days for the relatively few misdemeanor sentence appeals. These figures represent a 12% decrease for felony merit matters, an 11% decrease for misdemeanor merit cases, a 12% decrease for felony sentence appeals, and a 20% decrease for misdemeanor sentence cases. The fact that the court was able to dispose of its cases in, on the average, 10% less time is an encouraging note, especially for felony merit and sentence appeals. These average disposition times still exceed the nationally promulgated standards for the administration of appellate criminal justice. However, the trend over the last few years reflects the court's efforts to reduce its backlog and to accelerate appellate review.

One of the most important aspects of these disposition figures is the amount of time cases are under advisement. Here also, the average time for the court to produce and file a decision decreased noticeably. For felony merit appeals, the average time that a case was under advisement dropped from 205 days in FY 83 to 176 days in FY 84, a 14% decrease. For misdemeanor merit appeals, the figures showed only a slight change from 165 days during last year to 161 days this year. For felony sentencing matters, the court had cases under advisement for 145 days on the average in FY 84 versus 170 days in FY 83. This is a 15% decrease. Finally, for misdemeanor sentence cases, the figures declined from 146 days in FY 83 to 121 in FY 84, a 17% decline.

TABLE I

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

RECAPITULATION - FISCAL YEAR 1984

	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Sentence Appeals	Petitions for Review[b]	Originals	TOTAL
Beginning	316	33	4	26	7	386
Transferred to Court of Appeals		2		1		3
Transferred from Court of Appeals	2			1		3
Filed	297	78	13	128	20	536
Reinstated	3	1		1		5
Converted[a] (net)	-2			+2		0
Corrected (net)						0
Closed	325	89	12	119	22	567
Ending	291	21	5	38	5	360

[a] By action of the court or the parties, cases are occasionally converted from one type to another. These figures represent the net of all such changes during FY 84.

[b] Also includes two small categories of petitions for hearing. See text.

TABLE II

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

DISPOSITIONS - FISCAL YEAR 1984

DISPOSITIONS	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Sentence Appeals	Petitions for Review[a]	Original Applications	TOTAL ALL CASES
PUBLISHED OPINION						
Affirmed	57	3		1		61
Reversed or vacated	62	7		4		73
Affirmed in part/Reversed in part	50	1				51
Other	1			1	4	6
Total	170	11		6	4	191
SUMMARILY ON MERITS						
Affirmed	29	2			2	33
Reversed or vacated	8	1		5	1	15
Affirmed in part/Reversed in part	4					4
Other	4			2	8	14
Total	45	3		7	11	66
TOTAL ON MERITS	215	14		13	15	257
PETITION DENIALS	2	73	11	98	6	190
DISMISSALS						
Stipulated or by Appellant	73			3		76
Motion of Appellee	14				1	15
Sua sponte	21	2	1	5		29
TOTAL NOT ON MERITS	110	75	12	106	7	310
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	325	89	12	119	22	567

[a] Also includes two small categories of petitions for hearing. See text.

TABLE III - HISTORICAL[a]

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

	1977	1978	1979	1980[c]	1980-81[c]	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
A. FILINGS[b]								
Civil Appeals	251	256	305	255	303	257	271	300
Criminal Appeals	156	135	133	102	32	33	92	79
Sentence Appeals	63	56	40	51	15	1	14	13
Petitions for Review	126	156	141	140	119	104	113	129
Originals	17	27	37	24	24	14	19	20
TOTAL	613	630	656	572	493	409	509	541
B. DISPOSITIONS								
Civil Appeals	201	225	254	247	264	273	307	325
Criminal Appeals	88	131	139	126	104	26	83	89
Sentence Appeals	40	43	55	44	32	1	12	12
Petitions for Review	103	136	150	148	146	102	118	119
Originals	18	25	36	21	22	20	18	22
TOTAL	450	560	634	586	568	422	538	567
C. DISPOSITIONS								
On Merits	231	302	338	320	348	209	241	257
Petitions & Originals Denied	67	99	100	93	88	98	179	190
Dismissals	152	159	196	173	132	115	118	120
TOTAL	450	560	634	586	568	422	538	567
D. OPINIONS PUBLISHED	189	237	234	248	263	140	172	148
MEMORANDUM OPINION AND JUDGMENTS	0	15	38	26	19	21	21	43
E. PENDING END OF YEAR								
Civil Appeals	268	297	346	351	366	353	316	291
Criminal Appeals	200	209	200	41	13	23	33	21
Sentence Appeals	39	51	39	12	1	1	4	5
Petitions for Review	43	61	54	43	28	29	26	38
Originals	4	6	7	9	10	6	7	5
TOTAL	554	624	646	456	418	412	386	360

[a] The figures for cases pending at the end of one year plus the next year's filings minus dispositions do not always equal cases pending at the end of the following year due to reclassifications and corrections. See footnote a to Table I.

[b] Includes reinstatements.

[c] On September 18, 1980, the Court of Appeals began operations and the jurisdiction and workload of the Supreme Court changed significantly. Information before and after that date is therefore not strictly comparable. The 1980 reporting period covers the calendar year 1980. It overlaps by six months with the 1980-81 reporting period, which begins July 1, 1980 and ends June 30, 1981. Activity during the last six months of 1980 is therefore reported in both columns.

TABLE IV

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

REASONS FOR CASES PENDING JUNE 30, 1984

	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Sentence Appeals	Petitions for Review[a]	Original Applications	TOTAL ALL CASES
Awaiting record	43				3	46
Awaiting briefs	103	9	3	19		134
Awaiting hearing/submission	31	3		11		45
With Central Staff						0
Not with Central Staff	31	3				45
Awaiting draft opinion	51			3		54
Draft opinion circulating	46	3	1	1	1	52
Awaiting decision on granting petition		2	1	3		6
Awaiting record return or decision on rehearing	2					2
Stayed or remanded	15	4		1	1	21
TOTAL CASES PENDING JUNE 30, 1984	291	21	5	38	5	360

[a] Also includes two small categories of petitions for hearing. See text.

TABLE V

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

LENGTH OF TIME TO DISPOSITION

(Average Number of Days)

Cases Decided by Opinion or MO&J

	Fiscal Year 1984 Civil Appeals	Fiscal Year 1983 Civil Appeals	Fiscal Year 1982 Civil Appeals	Fiscal Year 1981 Civil Appeals	Fiscal Year 1981 Criminal Appeals	Fiscal Year 1981 Sentence Appeals
Notice of Appeal to Record Certification	70	72	81	96	142	54
Record certification to Last Brief	147	156	160	147	199	87
Last Brief to Argument or Submission	95	91	88	91	77	55
Argument or Submission to Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation	99	118	121	137	173	143
Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation to Publication	122	126	152	153	129	154
Publication to Closing	25	31	21	33	17	13
TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS	558	593	623	657	737	506
Shortest Total Number of Days	55	55	169	193	215	351
Longest Total Number of Days	1272	1392	1206	1492	1417	735
Number of Cases Averaged	(208)	(213)	(169)	(180)	(93)	(23)

TABLE VI

ALASKA SUPREME COURT & COURT OF APPEALS

BACKLOG MONTHS

	At FY 84 disposition rate, months necessary to dispose of:	
	FY 84 filings	Cases pending 6/30/84
SUPREME COURT		
All cases	11.4	7.6
Civil appeals only	11.1	10.7
COURT OF APPEALS		
All cases	11.0	9.2
Felony merit appeals only	13.5	16.4
Misdemeanor merit appeals only	13.8	12.9
Sentence appeals only	10.7	5.9

TABLE VII

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

RECAPITULATION - FISCAL YEAR 1984

	MERIT APPEALS			SENTENCE APPEALS			PETITIONS			ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL
	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior		
Beginning	235	87		88	8		9	5	4		436
Transferred from Supreme Court	1						1			1	3
Transferred to Supreme Court	1	1					1				3
Filed	203	106		128	21	1	40	16	7	5	527
Reinstated	3								1		4
Converted (net)[a]	-2			3						-1	0
Corrected (net)[b]	-4	-1			+1		+4	+2			+2
Closed	184	92		147	20	1	45	21	11	5	526
Ending	251	99		72	10		8	2	1		443

[a] By action of the court or the parties, cases are occasionally converted from one type to another. These figures represent the net of all such changes during FY 84.

[b] This category includes cases erroneously misclassified at the time they were filed. These figures represent the net of all such corrections during FY 84.

TABLE VIII

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

DISPOSITIONS - FISCAL YEAR 1984

	MERIT APPEALS			SENTENCE APPEALS			PETITIONS			ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL
	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior		
DISPOSITIONS											
PUBLISHED OPINION											
Affirmed	45	14		21	1		2		1		84
Reversed or vacated	22	7		11			5		1		46
Affirmed in part/ Reversed in part	8	1		2							11
Other	1			5	1						7
Total	76	22		39	2		7		2		148
SUMMARILY ON MERITS											
Affirmed	53	33		82	8		4	2			182
Reversed or vacated	24	15		4	3		3	1	2	1	53
Affirmed in part/ Reversed in part	12			3	1						16
Other	1	1					1				3
Total	90	49		89	12		8	3	2	1	254
TOTAL ON MERITS	166	71		128	14		15	3	4	1	402
PETITION DENIALS							25	15	6	4	50
DISMISSALS											
Stipulated or by Appellant	9	17		18	6			1			51
Motion of Appellee	2					1					3
Sua sponte	7	4		1			5	2	1		20
TOTAL NOT ON MERITS	18	21		19	6	1	30	18	7	4	124
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	184	92		147	20	1	45	21	11	5	526

TABLE IX

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

HISTORICAL[a]

A. FILINGS[b]	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
Merit Appeals	157	245	343	312
Sentence Appeals	42	120	164	150
Petitions	58	80	74	64
Originals	5	14	3	5
TOTAL	262	459	584	531

B. DISPOSITIONS	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
Merit Appeals	49	174	347	276
Sentence Appeals	25	63	171	168
Petitions	40	79	72	77
Originals	4	12	4	5
TOTAL	118	328	594	526

C. DISPOSITIONS	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
On Merits	48	195	466	402
Petitions & Originals Denied	30	49	53	50
Dismissals	40	84	75	74
TOTAL	118	328	594	526

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
D. OPINIONS PUBLISHED	29	69	169	120
MEMORANDUM OPINION & JUDGMENTS and SUMMARY DISPOSITIONS	25	97	255	242

E. PENDING END OF YEAR	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
Merit Appeals	255	330	322	350
Sentence Appeals	47	101	96	82
Petitions	18	17	18	11
Originals	1	1	0	0
TOTAL	321	449	436	443

---

[a] The figures for cases pending at the end of one year plus the next year's filings minus dispositions do not always equal cases pending at the end of the following year due to reclassification and corrections. See footnotes a and b to Table I.

[b] Includes reinstatements.

TABLE X

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

Reasons for Cases Pending - June 30, 1984

	MERIT APPEALS			SENTENCE APPEALS			PETITIONS			ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL
	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior		
Awaiting record	54	10		5	1						70
Awaiting briefs	90	32		15	3		4	1			145
Awaiting hearing/ submission	25	14		4			1				44
With central staff	1	3									4
Not with central staff	24	11		4			1				40
Awaiting draft disposition	41	25		27	3						96
Draft disposition circulating	20	11		16	3						50
Awaiting decision on granting petition							1	1	1		3
Awaiting record return or decision on Rehg.	4						1				5
Stayed or remanded	17	7		5			1				30
TOTAL:	251	99		72	10		8	2	1		443

TABLE XI

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

LENGTH OF TIME TO DISPOSITION

(Average Number of Days)

Appeals Closed by Opinion or Unpublished Disposition on the Merits

	Fiscal Year 1983				Fiscal Year 1984			
	Felony Merit	Misdemeanor Merit	Felony Sentence	Misdemeanor Sentence	Felony Merit	Misdemeanor Merit	Felony Sentence	Misdemeanor Sentence
Notice of Appeal to Record Certification	103	48	31	28	87	36	29	25
Record certification to Last Brief	169	81	53	46	151	69	56	38
Last Brief to Argument or Submission	71	53	36	61	64	43	23	16
Argument or Submission to Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation	122	112	113	109	103	111	100	80
Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation to Publication	83	53	57	37	73	48	45	41
Publication to Closing	23	24	18	18	27	23	19	19
TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS	571	371	308	299	505	330	272	238
Shortest Total Number of Days	61	97	89	160	95	117	84	99
Longest Total Number of Days	1584	921	984	730	1566	584	647	350
Number of Cases Averaged	(160)	(123)	(137)	(8)	(161)	(75)	(120)	(13)

Trial Courts

TRIAL COURTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

FY 1984 and the Trial Courts. 51

Trial Courts Statistical Summary. 54

Table I: Alaska Trial Courts FY 84 Caseload Summary. 55

Superior Court FY 84 Caseload Overview. 56

Table II: Caseload Summary 57

Table III: Summary of Filings and Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84. 58

Table IV: Caseload Composition 59

Table V: Summary of Caseload FY 81 - FY 84. 60

Table VI: Filings by Case Type FY 81 - FY 84 61

District Court Caseload Overview. 62

Table VII: Caseload Summary 63

Table VIII: Summary of Filings and Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84. 64

Table IX: Caseload Composition 65

Table X: Summary of Caseload FY 81 - FY 84. 66

Table XI: Filings by Case Type FY 81 - FY 84 67

FY 1984 And The Trial Courts

The trial courts are the contact point between the public and the judicial branch. These courts reflect the diversity of Alaska, serving communities with significantly different cultural and demographic characteristics. Alaska's courts are spread out over 566,000 square miles, stretching from the communities of Ketchikan and Hydaburg in the southeastern panhandle, north and west 1300 miles to Barrow and Wainwright on the Arctic Ocean, and south and west almost 1500 miles to the end of the Aleutian Chain. They range in size from relatively large metropolitan courts in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau to remote magistrate posts in locations including Cold Bay, Kake, Aniak and Kiana.

First Judicial District (Southeast Alaska)

During FY 84 Judge Thomas Schulz served as presiding judge for the first judicial district. Kristen Carlisle has been area court administrator for the first district since 1983. Both offices are located in Ketchikan.

In June 1984 Linn H. Asper was appointed to the district court in Juneau, replacing retiring Judge Gerald O. Williams. Prior to his appointment, Judge Asper served as counsel to the Alaska State Legislature, and had served as acting district judge in Juneau in 1975.

Juneau Superior Court Judges Pegues and Carpeneti help robe new Juneau District Court Judge Linn Asper

Administrative activities in this district during FY 84 included special district wide training for clerks and magistrates, and transfer of appeals preparation to a new appeals clerk position in Juneau.

Second Judicial District (Northern Alaska)

The Nome court serves as the central administrative location for the second judicial district under the supervision of Presiding Judge Charles R. Tunley. He is assisted by Area Court Administrator Mike Hall.

FY 84 activities in this district included Barrow courthouse remodeling, installation of an automated case management and calendaring system, and centralization of transcript preparation and appeal processing.

Installation of John Bosshard, III as Valdez Superior Court Judge: Left to Right: Chief Justice Edmond Burke; John Bosshard, II; John Bosshard, III; Anchorage Superior Court Judge Victor Carlson

Third Judicial District (Southcentral Alaska)

Superior Court Judge Mark Rowland, who is located in Anchorage, served as presiding judge for this district during FY 84. Al Szal continued as the area court administrator.

On January 11, 1984, Governor Sheffield appointed Karen Hunt to the superior court in Anchorage. Judge Hunt had been a partner in the Anchorage law firm of Delaney, Wiles, Reitman and Brubaker since 1980, and served two terms on the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association.

On May 27, 1984, Governor Sheffield announced the appointment of John Bosshard, III as superior court judge in Valdez. Bosshard has been a district court judge in Valdez since 1976. The Valdez district court judgeship was changed to the superior court level by the 1983 legislature.

Several third district projects initiated in FY 84 focus on areas of special concern to the Alaska Legislature. The Anchorage court obtained a grant through the Highway Safety Planning Agency of the Department of Public Safety to reduce processing time for DWI cases. The grant funds a specialized DWI court, consisting of a judge, an in-court clerk, a calendaring clerk, an assistant district attorney and an assistant public defender. The grant extends through FY 85.

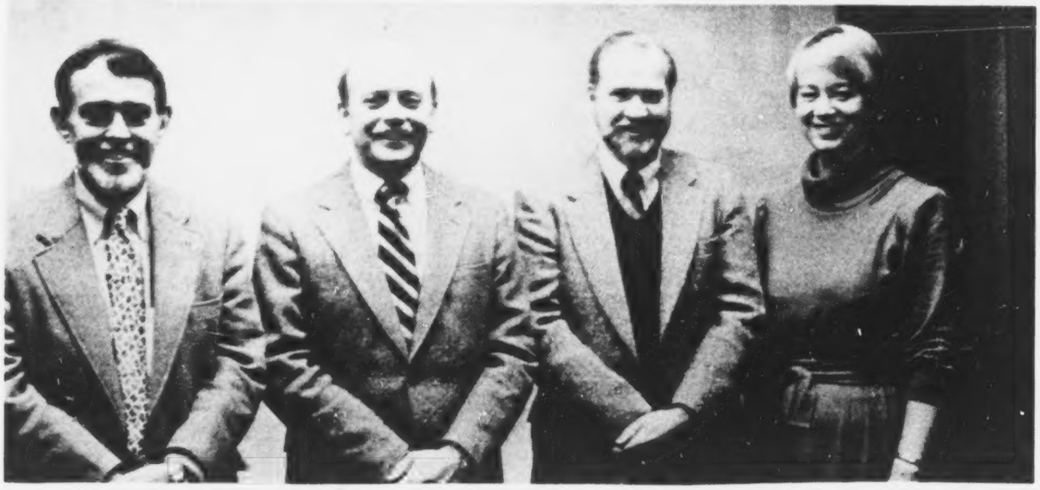
In response to the 136% increase in domestic violence petitions between calendar years 1981 and 1983, the presiding judge appointed an interagency committee to suggest procedures for a more effective system.

In the Anchorage district court, calendaring and case processing procedures were revised to respond to the growing caseload.

Fourth Judicial District (Interior Alaska)

The fourth judicial district presiding judge during FY 84 was Gerald VanHoomissen, assisted by Area Court Administrator Mac Gibson. Notable FY 84 accomplishments in this district include elimination of the trailing trial calendar, and improved jury management.

Plans for a microwave system to transmit audio-video signals between the Fairbanks Correctional Center and the courthouse were completed in FY 84, with operation to begin in November 1984. Incarcerated defendants will be arraigned from the correctional center without being taken to the courthouse. This innovation will substantially reduce the cost of transporting prisoners to arraignments.



Area Court Administrators: Left to Right: Mac Gibson, Fourth District; Al Szal, Third District; Michael Hall, Second District; Kris Carlisle, First District.

TRIAL COURTS STATISTICAL SUMMARY — FY 84

This section of the annual report summarizes FY 84 trial court statistics.

Comprehensive statistical tables describing the superior and district court caseloads in FY 84 are located in the statistical supplement at the back of this report. Any questions about caseloads may be directed to the administrative office of the Alaska Court System.

The Alaska trial courts have jurisdiction over all civil, criminal and children's matters (excluding cases exclusively within the jurisdiction of the federal court). In FY 84 the superior court workload increased 11%, while cases filed in the district court increased by approximately 6%.

Table I summarizes the number of cases filed in each superior and higher volume district court location for FY 84.

TABLE I
ALASKA TRIAL COURTS
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 84
7/1/83 - 6/30/84

Court Location	SUPERIOR COURTS		DISTRICT COURTS				TOTALS	
	Filings	% of S.C. Total	Non-Traffic Filings	(1) Traffic Filings	Total	% of D.C. Total	Total Filings	% of State Total
Anchorage	10,642	52.0%	17,756	53,363	71,119	50.3%	81,761	50.4%
Barrow	250	1.2%	507	20	527	.4%	777	.5%
Bethel	511	2.5%	736	466	1,202	.8%	1,713	1.1%
Cordova			447	125	572	.4%	572	.4%
Craig			264	167	431	.3%	431	.3%
Delta Jct.			216	431	647	.5%	647	.4%
Dillingham			411	222	633	.4%	633	.4%
Fairbanks	3,608	17.6%	5,786	14,766	20,552	14.5%	24,160	14.9%
Glennallen			449	282	731	.5%	731	.5%
Healy			109	470	579	.4%	579	.4%
Homer			1,058	1,434	2,492	1.8%	2,492	1.5%
Juneau	1,177	5.8%	3,655	2,574	6,229	4.4%	7,406	4.6%
Kenai	951	4.6%	2,847	5,218	8,065	5.7%	9,016	5.6%
Ketchikan	810	4.0%	1,831	2,564	4,395	3.1%	5,205	3.2%
Kodiak	429	2.1%	1,223	1,999	3,222	2.3%	3,651	2.3%
Kotzebue	343	1.7%	959	109	1,068	.8%	1,411	.9%
Nome	288	1.4%	544	140	684	.5%	972	.6%
Palmer	867	4.2%	2,639	4,970	7,609	5.4%	8,476	5.2%
Seward			479	1,842	2,321	1.6%	2,321	1.4%
Sitka	388	1.9%	1,010	1,416	2,426	1.7%	2,814	1.7%
Tok			291	759	1,050	.7%	1,050	.6%
Unalaska			288	89	377	.3%	377	.2%
Valdez			579	355	934	.7%	934	.6%
Wrangell/	196	1.0%	440	265	705	.5%	901	.6%
Petersburg	(2)		307	244	551	.4%	551	.3%
Subtotal	20,460	100.0%	44,831	94,290	139,121	98.3%	159,581	98.5%
Lower Volume Courts	-	-	1,893	592	2,485	1.7%	2,485	1.5%
TOTALS	20,460	100.0%	46,724	94,882	141,606	100%	162,066	100.0%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FIRST	2,571	12.6%	7,987	7,317	15,304	10.8%	17,875	11.0%
SECOND	881	4.3%	2,423	277	2,700	1.9%	3,581	2.2%
THIRD	12,889	63.0%	28,632	70,038	98,670	69.7%	111,559	68.9%
FOURTH	4,119	20.1%	7,682	17,250	24,932	17.6%	29,051	17.9%

(1) Traffic case dispositions are used as filings in district court.

(2) Wrangell & Petersburg operate a combined superior court but separate district courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Jurisdiction

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction, with original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters. Appeals to the superior court from final judgments of the district court are a matter of right. The superior court has exclusive jurisdiction in all domestic relations matters, children's proceedings, probate, guardianship and civil commitments.

FY 84 Caseload - Superior Courts

Table II summarizes FY 84 case filings and dispositions for each superior court location. On a statewide level, the number of cases filed in superior court increased by 11% from FY 83. Total dispositions increased by 9%. Although the three new judgeships created in FY 83 contributed to a 9% increase in superior court matters decided this year, cases are still being filed in the state's superior courts at a rate faster than available judicial resources can decide them.

During FY 84, three more superior court judgeships were created by the legislature (2 in Anchorage and 1 in Valdez). When these positions are filled and fully operational, it is hoped that the state's superior courts will be able to stay relatively current with the continually increasing filings and also begin to decrease the backlog of pending cases.

TABLE II
SUPERIOR COURTS
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 84
7/1/83 - 6/30/84

Court	FY 84 Filings	FY 84 Dispositions	Percent Change in Filings From FY83	Ratio of Dispositions to Filings FY83	Ratio of Dispositions to Filings FY84
Anchorage	10,642	8,105	+ 7%	81%	76%
Barrow	250	220	(PY)	(PY)	88%
Bethel	511	440	+15%	98%	86%
Fairbanks	3,608	2,839	+15%	84%	79%
Juneau	1,177	898	+15%	71%	76%
Kenai	951	722	+16%	76%	76%
Ketchikan	810	594	+ 9%	68%	86%
Kodiak	429	331	- 5%	70%	77%
Kotzebue	343	340	+42%	86%	99%
Nome	288	297	-17%	83%	103%
Palmer	867	605	(PY)	(PY)	70%
Sitka	388	317	+11%	83%	82%
Wrangell/(1) Petersburg	196	140	(PY)	(PY)	71%
TOTALS	20,460	15,948	+11%	79%	78%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2,571	2,049	+13%	69%	80%
Second	881	857	+14%	77%	97%
Third	12,889	9,763	+10%	79%	76%
Fourth	4,119	3,279	+15%	86%	80%

(PY) Partial year, court created in FY83.

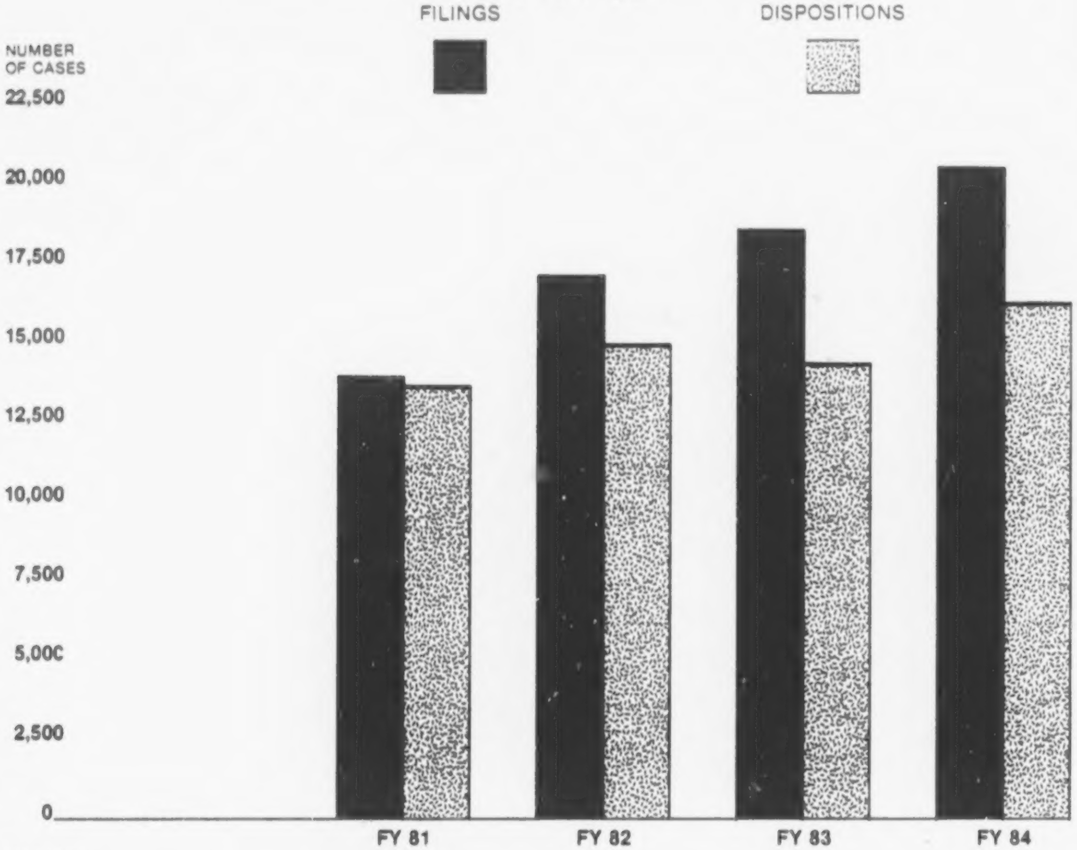
(1) Wrangell & Petersburg operate a combined superior court but separate district courts.

(2) Valdez was upgraded to a superior court in FY84 but did not commence operations until FY85.

TABLE III

SUPERIOR COURTS

SUMMARY OF FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
FY 81 - FY 84



	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
FILINGS	13,953	17,168	18,364	20,460
DISPOSITIONS	13,619	14,680	14,570	15,948

Table III shows changes in filings and dispositions since FY 81. Total filings have increased by 47%, but total dispositions have increased by only 17%. This table demonstrates the potential long term caseflow problems facing the state's superior courts.

Table IV analyzes the types of cases filed in superior court during FY 84. The largest category of superior court cases continues to be domestic relations, with 44% of total case filings.

Within the general category of domestic relations, domestic violence cases continue to stand out as a clear example of the impact of recent legislation on the workload of the court system. Domestic violence cases make up 23% of the domestic relations caseload and approximately 10% of the overall superior court workload. During FY 84, domestic violence case filings increased by 32%.

Guardianship and sanity matters increased by 29% accounting for 31% of the total probate case filings.

Filings of felony cases in superior courts increased by 15% in FY 84. For the third year, felony cases where the primary charge involved violence or drugs accounted for over half (58%) of all felony filings. Filings of felony cases involving a primary charge of violence increased by 26% over FY 83 levels, while felony filings involving a primary charge of drugs decreased by 5% from FY 83 levels.

Filings of children's proceedings in superior court increased by 33% over FY 83 levels.

TABLE IV
SUPERIOR COURTS
CASELOAD COMPOSITION FY 84

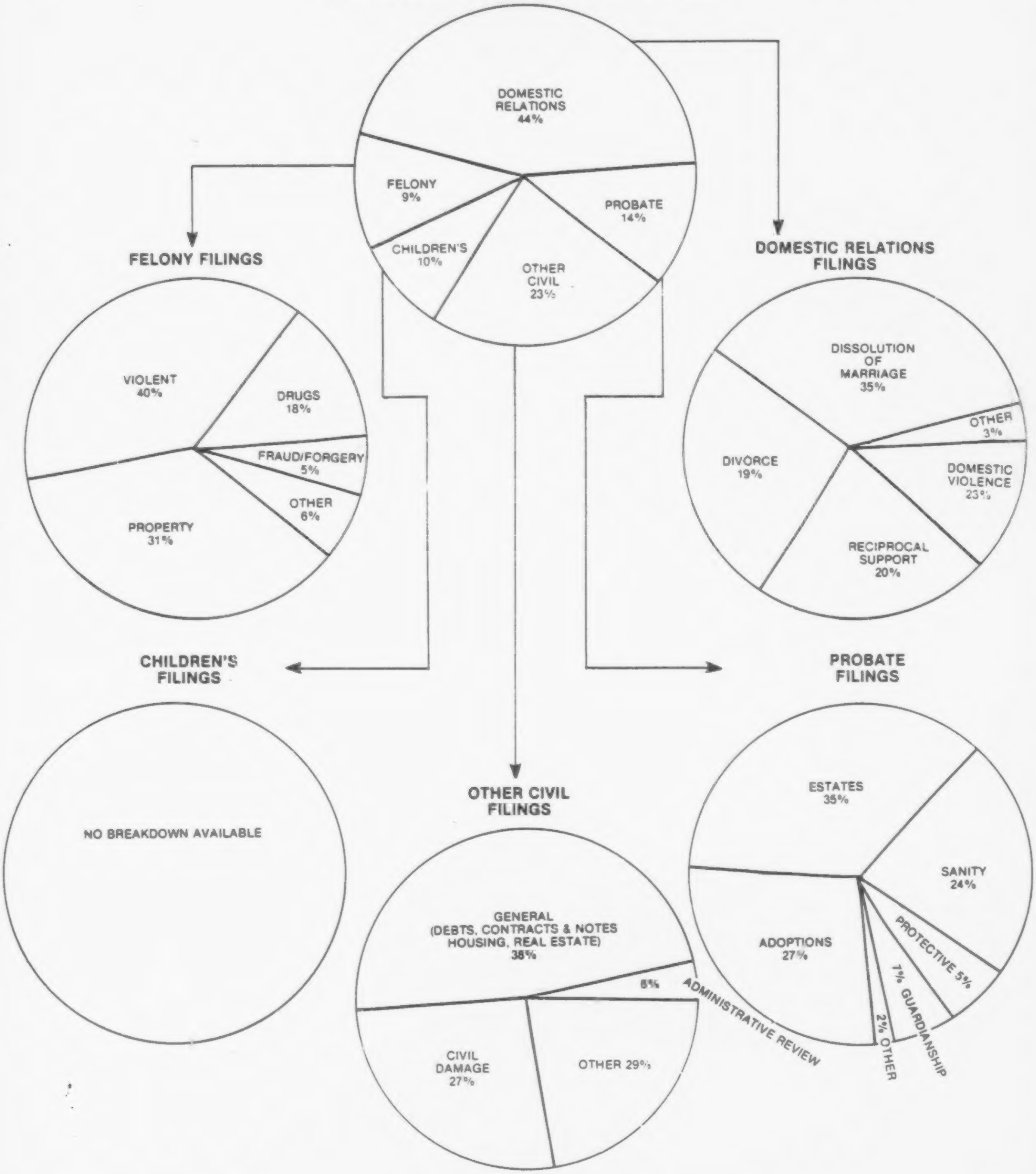
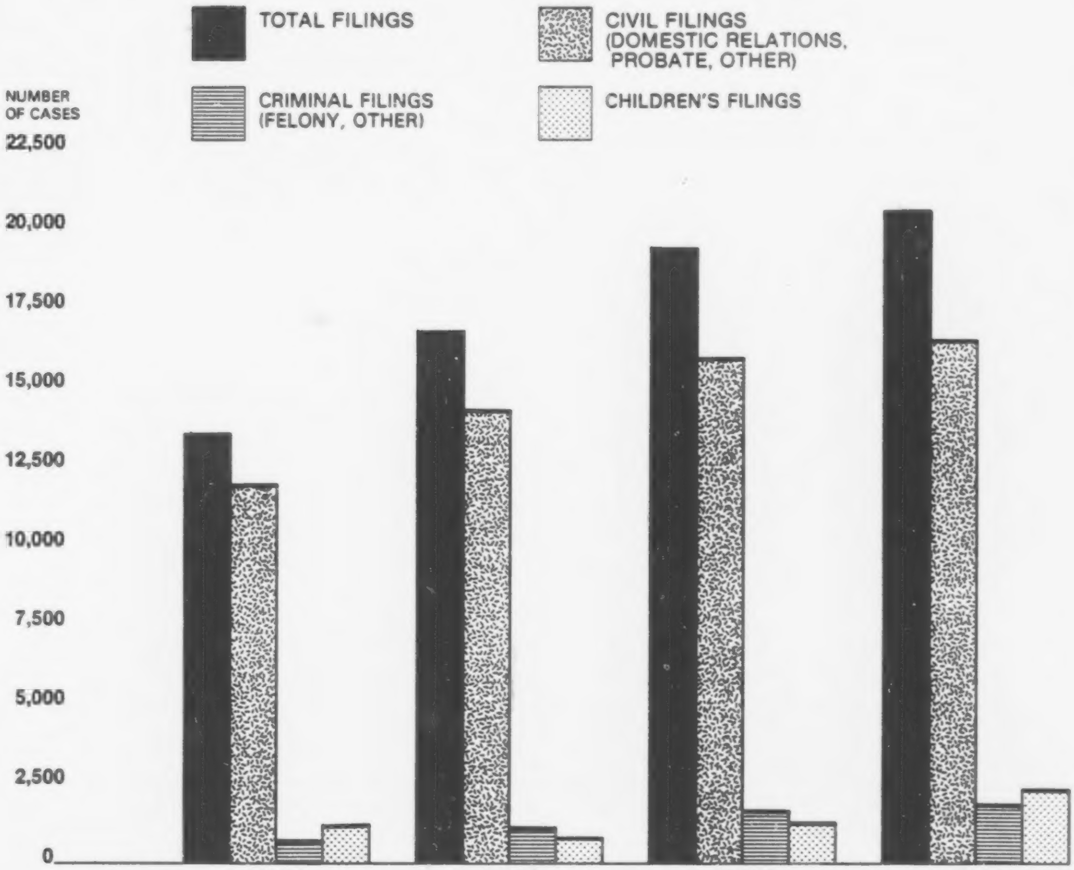


Table V shows the general composition of cases filed in superior courts since FY 81 based on the major categories of civil, criminal and children's proceedings.

Since FY 81, total civil case filings have increased by 45%, children's proceedings have increased by 51% and criminal (felony) case filings have increased by 55%.

TABLE V

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF CASELOAD
FY 81 - FY 84



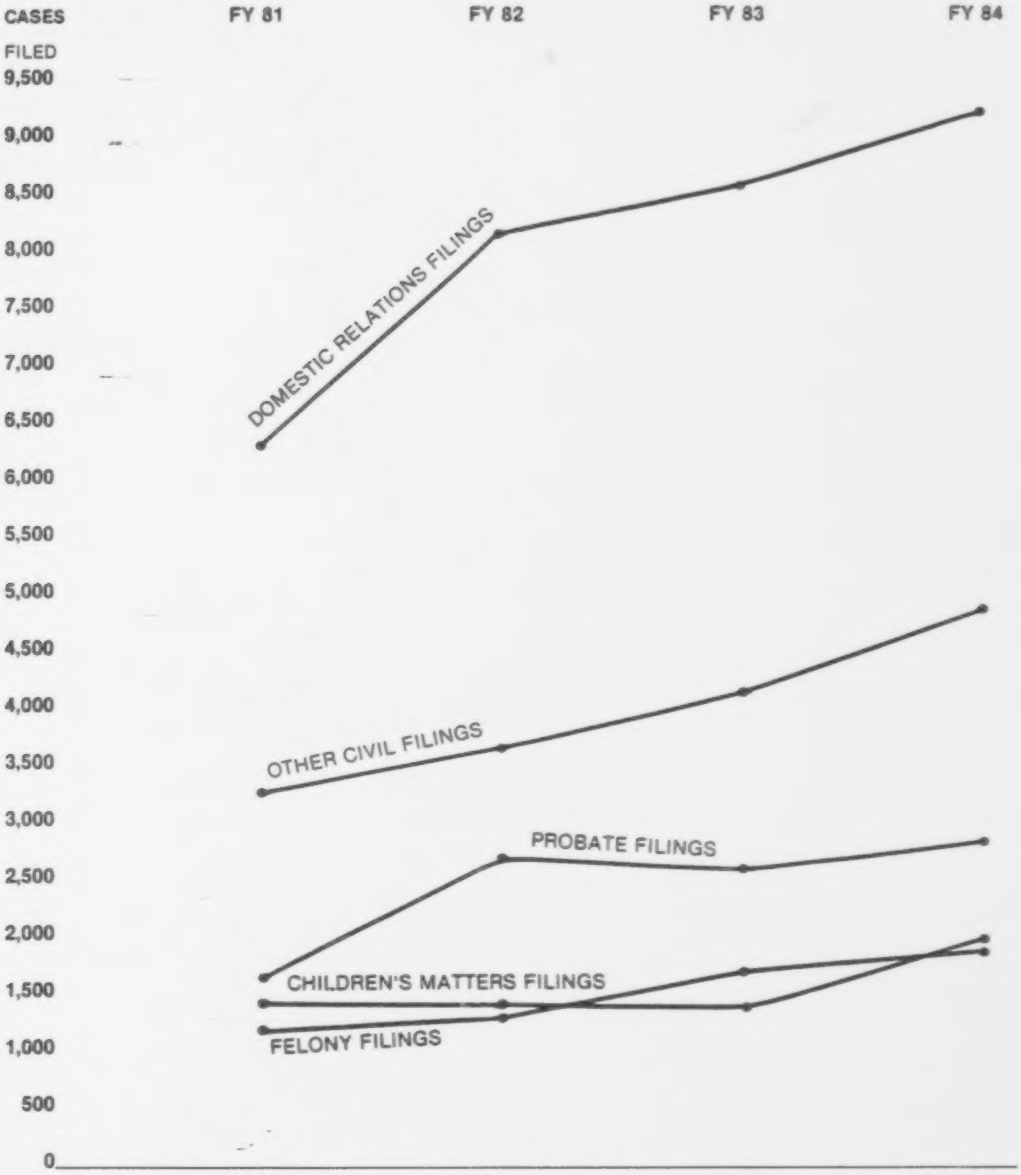
	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
Civil Filings	11,445	14,581	15,260	16,630
Criminal Filings	1,194	1,317	1,607	1,846
Children's Filings	1,314	1,270	1,497	1,984
Total Filings	13,953	17,168	18,364	20,460

Table VI shows significant increases in case filings in all specific case categories since FY 81: domestic relations (+42%), general civil cases (+42%), probate (+66%), children's proceedings (+51%) and criminal (+55%).

TABLE VI

SUPERIOR COURTS

SUMMARY OF FY 81 - FY 84 FILINGS BY CASE TYPE



		FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
Domestic Rel.	:	6,429	8,257	8,546	9,102
Other Civil	:	3,346	3,629	4,138	4,748
Probate	:	1,670	2,695	2,576	2,780
Children's	:	1,314	1,270	1,497	1,984
Felony	:	1,194	1,317	1,607	1,846

DISTRICT COURT

Jurisdiction

In criminal matters, the district court has jurisdiction over state misdemeanor violations and violations of ordinances of political subdivisions. In civil matters, the district court may hear cases for recovery of money or damages not exceeding $10,000 and for recovery of specific personal property not exceeding $10,000 in value. In motor vehicle tort cases, civil jurisdiction in district court is $15,000.

Magistrate posts have been created in the smaller, generally rural areas of the state. They have also been established in metropolitan areas to handle routine matters and to ease the workload of the district court. In criminal matters, magistrates may give judgment of conviction upon a plea of guilty to any state misdemeanor, may try state misdemeanor cases if the defendant waives the right to a district court judge, and may hear municipal ordinance violations without consent of the accused. In formal civil cases, magistrates may award damages up to $1,000 (in small claims cases up to $2,000). Magistrates have emergency authority in children's matters.

FY 84 Caseload - District Court

District court statistics are separated into two categories: high and low volume courts. There are approximately 40 magistrates in locations that are identified as lower volume courts.

During FY 84, the statewide caseload in district courts increased by 6% for both traffic and non-traffic filings. Non-traffic dispositions decreased by 3% over FY 83. Table VII summarizes caseload statistics for district court locations in fiscal year 1984.

Special Note: Traffic Cases

Because traffic citation cases are not reported to the administrative office until final disposition, the number of filings for traffic matters in a year understates the court's actual workload. Wherever filings data is required to assess the overall workload of the courts, traffic disposition data have been substituted for traffic filing date in all tables and charts in this report.

Traffic disposition data is entered by court system personnel into automated DMV files maintained by the Department of Public Safety. In May 1984 the Department of Public Safety converted its existing system to a new system called APSIN (Alaska Public Safety Information Network). During the conversion to this new system, an unknown and significant number of traffic records were destroyed or not converted. In addition, many traffic citations entered by courts were not recorded as disposed traffic cases on the APSIN system because of the new coding conventions applied by the Department of Public Safety.

At the time of conversion, the court system ran its retrieval program against the DMV system as it existed on May 8, 1984. When these numbers were compared with data retrieved from APSIN as of July 1, 1984 the problems became evident.

For example, on the May 8 tape, Anchorage had already processed 40,022 traffic citations during FY 84. The annual data produced from APSIN three months later indicated that Anchorage had processed only 30,925 cases during the entire fiscal year. Fairbanks showed 11,074 on May 8 and 10,153 at year end. Because of these problems in the APSIN system, this report projects FY 84 traffic dispositions for both Anchorage and Fairbanks based on data available as of May 8, 1984.

TABLE VII
DISTRICT COURTS
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 84
7/1/83 - 6/30/84

Court Location	Non Traffic Filings	% Change From FY83	(1) Traffic Filings	% Change From FY83	Total Filings	% Change From FY83	Ratio Disposed to Filed	
							FY83	FY84
Anchorage	17,756	+ 8%	53,363	+ 9%	71,119	+ 9%	99%	95%
Barrow	507	+47%	20	-17%	527	+43%	105%	87%
Bethel	736	- 3%	466	- 5%	1,202	- 4%	104%	96%
Cordova	447	-22%	125	-38%	572	-26%	84%	99%
Craig	264	+29%	167	+139%	431	+57%	106%	98%
Delta Jct.	216	-12%	431	-25%	647	-21%	92%	97%
Dillingham	411	+18%	222	+24%	633	+54%	112%	105%
Fairbanks	5,786	--%	14,766	- 7%	20,552	- 5%	100%	98%
Glennallen	449	+15%	282	- 9%	731	+ 4%	106%	79%
Healy	109	+95%	470	+65%	579	+70%	100%	100%
Homer	1,058	- 8%	1,434	-12%	2,492	-10%	96%	95%
Juneau	3,655	+ 8%	2,574	+50%	6,229	+22%	89%	92%
Kenai	2,847	+25%	5,218	+ 8%	8,065	+14%	97%	96%
Ketchikan	1,831	+ 9%	2,564	+46%	4,395	+28%	92%	98%
Kodiak	1,223	-21%	1,999	+13%	3,222	- 3%	94%	99%
Kotzebue	959	+22%	109	-50%	1,068	+ 6%	105%	93%
Nome	544	+ 7%	140	-31%	684	- 4%	100%	103%
Palmer	2,639	+24%	4,970	- 4%	7,609	+ 4%	99%	92%
Petersburg	307	- 3%	244	+ 7%	551	+ 1%	77%	93%
Seward	479	-26%	1,842	- 7%	2,321	-11%	99%	96%
Sitka	1,010	+ 8%	1,416	+ 1%	2,426	+ 4%	102%	102%
Tok	291	+22%	759	+37%	1,050	+32%	95%	99%
Unalaska	288	-24%	89	- 5%	377	-20%	84%	112%
Valdez	579	+11%	355	-31%	934	-10%	92%	94%
Wrangell	440	+30%	265	+64%	705	+41%	104%	96%
Subtotal	44,831	+ 7%	94,290	+ 6%	139,121	+ 6%	98%	96%
Lower Volume Courts	1,893	- 7%	592	+64%	2,485	+10%	89%	79%
TOTALS	46,724	+ 6%	94,882	+ 6%	141,606	+ 6%	98%	95%

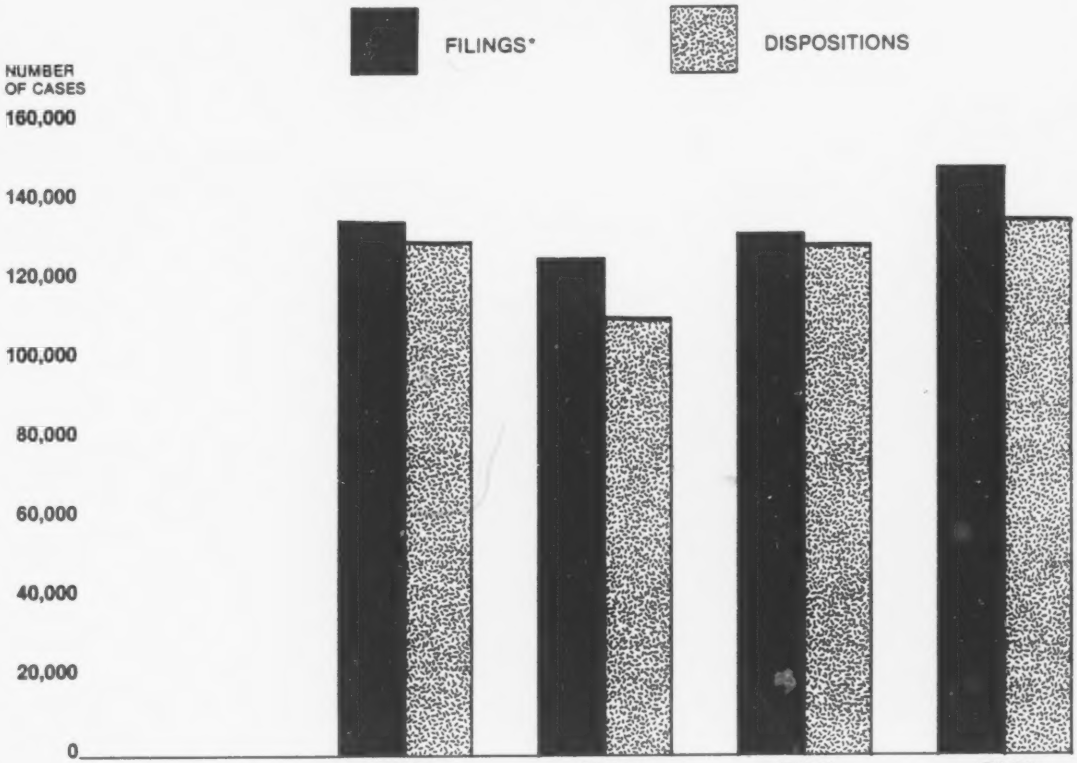
BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FIRST	7,987	+ 8%	7,317	+34%	15,304	+19%	93%	95%
SECOND	2,423	+15%	277	-38%	2,700	+ 6%	102%	88%
THIRD	28,632	+ 7%	70,038	+ 7%	98,670	+ 7%	98%	95%
FOURTH	7,682	+ 2%	17,250	- 4%	24,932	- 2%	100%	98%

(1) Traffic case dispositions are used as filings in district court.

TABLE VIII

DISTRICT COURTS
(High and Low Volume)
SUMMARY OF FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
FY 81 - FY 84



	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
FILINGS	136,605	121,376	133,176	141,606
DISPOSITIONS	132,436	114,061	130,513	134,893

*Traffic case dispositions are a more accurate indicator of actual workload than traffic filings. Therefore, traffic case dispositions are used for both filing and disposition data above. For all other case types, filings data were used as indicated.

As shown in Table VIII, total district court filings have increased by 4% since FY 81, while total dispositions have increased by 3%.

Table IX analyzes the composition of cases filed in higher volume district courts during FY 84. Traffic citations were the largest category of district court cases, accounting for 68% of the total workload. The 32% of the caseload that was non-traffic cases was comprised of 65% criminal cases and 35% civil cases.

As in FY 83, misdemeanor cases were approximately 60% of the non-traffic filings or about 19% of the total district court caseload. Approximately 30% involve driving while intoxicated (DWI). DWI cases represent about 17% of the total non-traffic citations in the district courts. Misdemeanor case filings increased by 7% during FY 84. Of this increase, 77% (1,398 cases) were DWI cases.

TABLE IX

DISTRICT COURTS (High Volume Courts) CASELOAD COMPOSITION FY 84

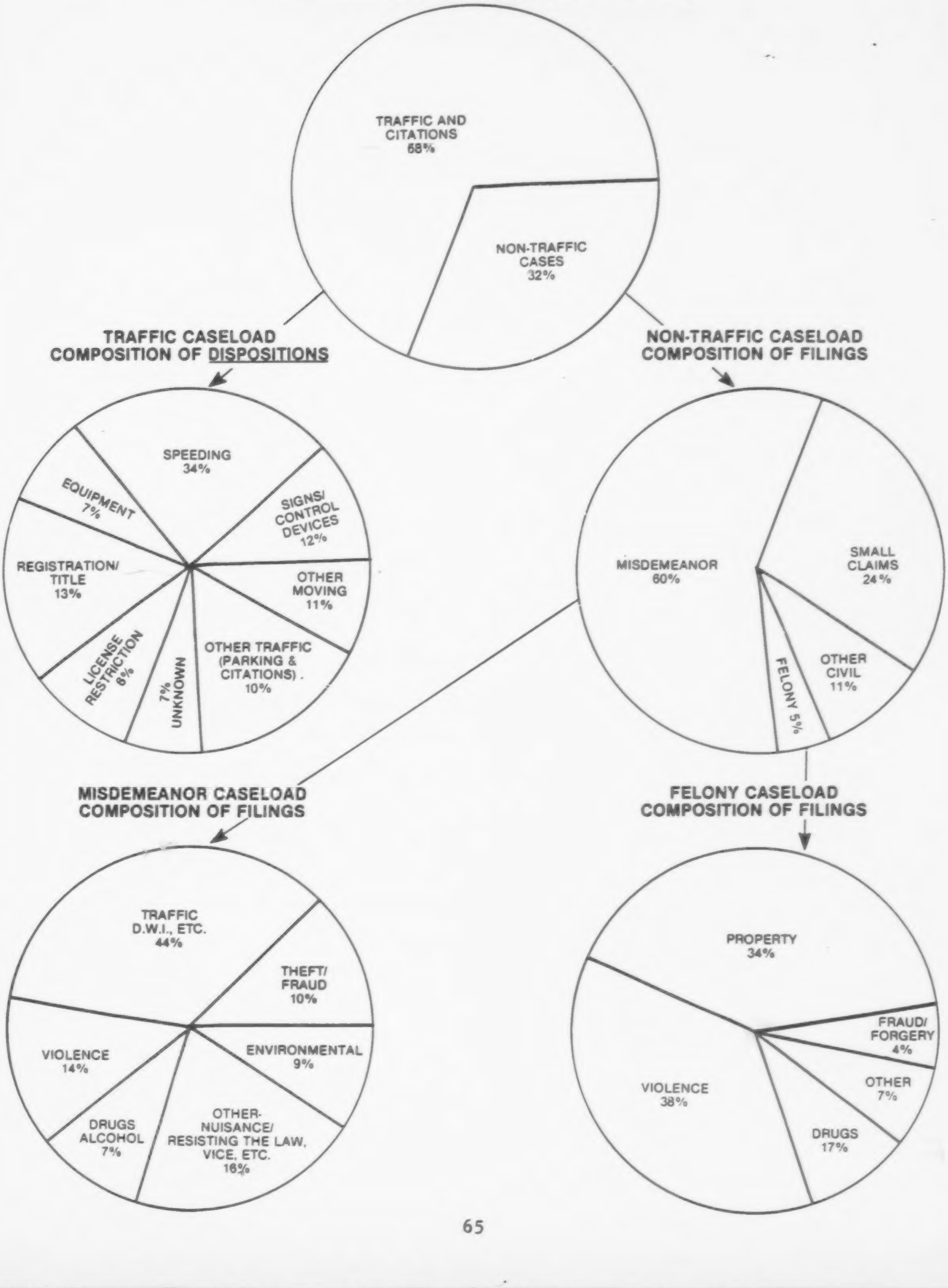
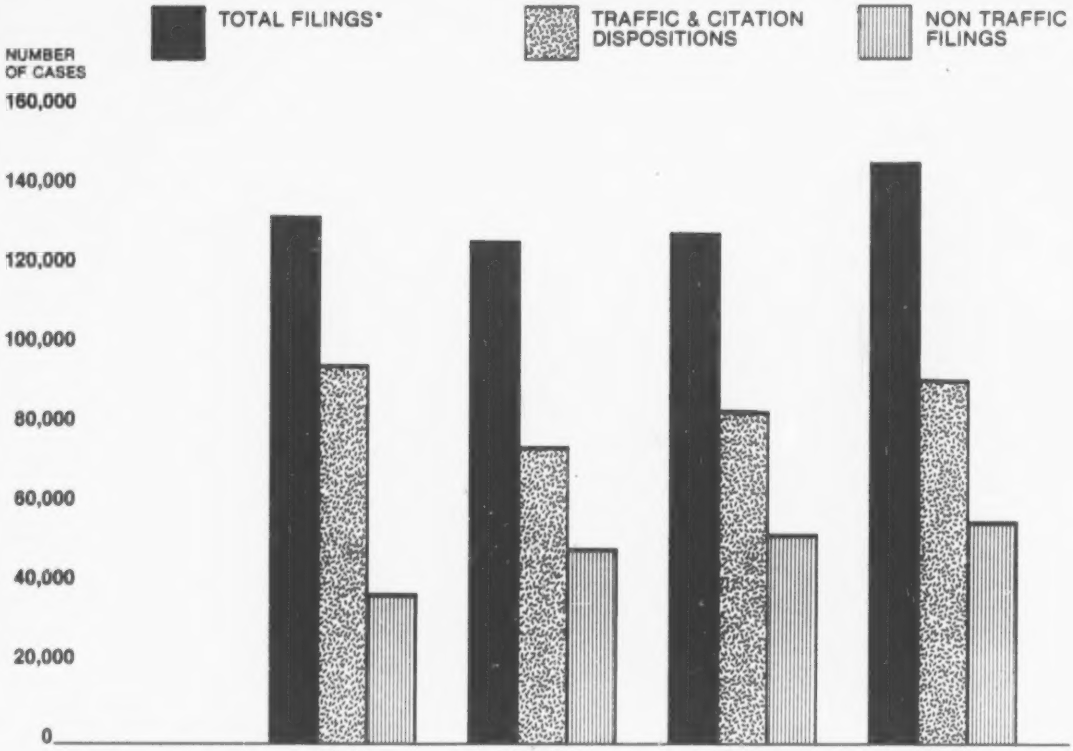


TABLE X

DISTRICT COURTS
(High and Low Volume)
SUMMARY OF CASELOAD
FY 81 - FY 84



	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
Traffic Dispositions*	97,705	78,080	89,281	94,882
Non-Traffic Filings	38,900	43,296	43,895	46,724
Total Caseload	136,605	121,376	133,176	141,606

*Traffic case dispositions are a more accurate indicator of actual workload than filings. For non-traffic cases, actual filings data were used.

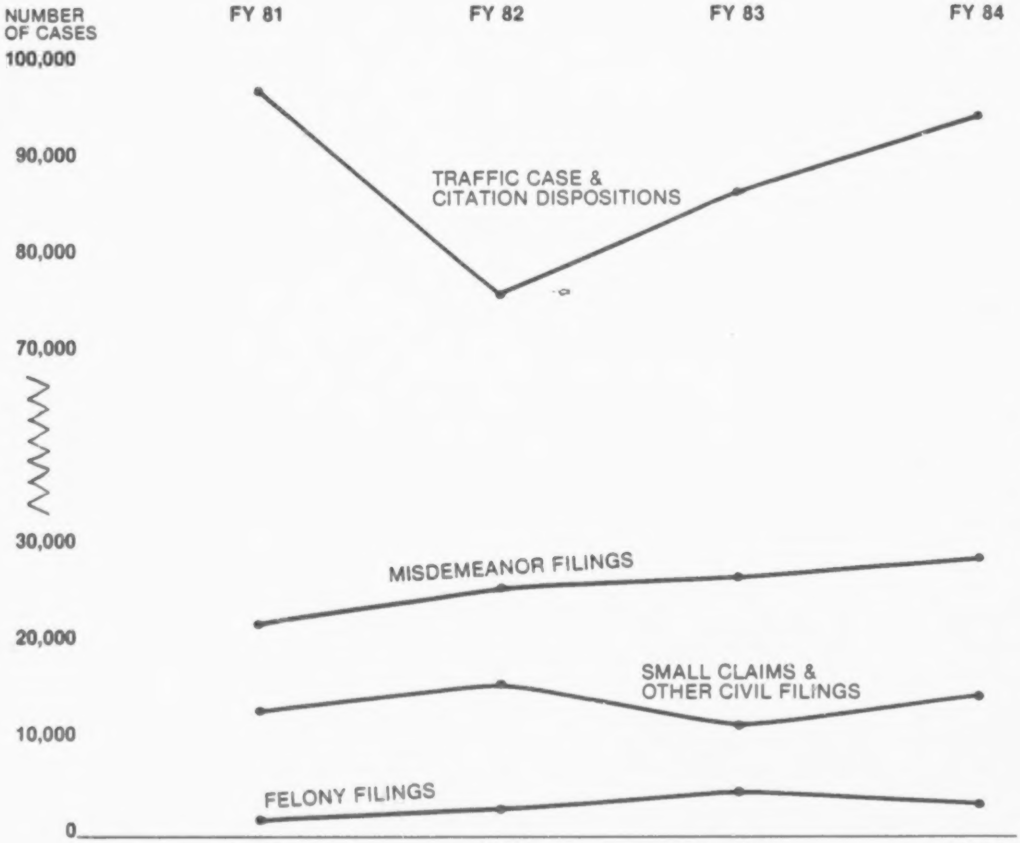
Table X shows that in the major categories of traffic and non-traffic matters, non-traffic matters have steadily increased for a total increase of 20% since FY 81, while traffic filings have fluctuated annually. Non-traffic filings leveled off during FY 82 and FY 83. During FY 84 they increased just over 6% (2,829 cases). Over half of these cases involved driving while intoxicated.

TABLE XI

DISTRICT COURTS

(High and Low Volume)

SUMMARY OF FY 81 - FY 84 FILINGS BY CASE TYPE



	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84
Traffic Dispos.	97,705	78,080	89,281	94,882
Misdemeanor Filings	21,938	25,111	26,728	28,587
Small Claims & Other Civil Filings	14,941	16,147	14,805	16,028
Felony Filings	2,021	2,038	2,362	2,109
Total Filings	136,605	121,376	133,176	141,606

Changes in filings since FY 81 for specific types of cases are noted in Table XI. Misdemeanors are up 30% and civil cases 7%. Traffic citations and felony filings in district court have fluctuated annually due to prosecutorial discretion in either filing a felony case in district court for preliminary hearing or seeking an indictment where the initial filing is in superior court.

Court Administration

COURT ADMINISTRATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Caseflow Management. 71

Records, Statistics and Information Systems. 72

Space and Equipment Management 73

  FY 84: Completed Improvements 73

  FY 84: Funded Improvements. 75

  Table I: Facility Improvements Funded in FY 84 - Location and Type of Space 75

Libraries. 77

New Equipment. 77

In-Service Education and Training. 77

Legislation Affecting Court System Operations. 79

Court Rules. 81

Court Personnel. 81

  Table II: Composition of Classified and Non-Judicial Employees 82

Public Information 82

Law Day. 83

Court Administration

Although judges and litigants are the most visible part of the Alaska Court System, effective administration of support services is also critical to the fair, efficient and prompt resolution of disputes. These basic administrative tasks include caseflow management, records and information management, management of court facilities and equipment, and provision of in-service training for court personnel. Other essential functions include drafting and review of court rules and proposed legislation affecting the courts, personnel management, and public information.

Caseflow Management

For courts nationwide the recent focus in caseflow management has been to examine the pace of litigation, to determine the extent of pretrial delay, and to address its causes.

In Alaska, the first step toward assessing pretrial delay was taken at the 1982 judicial conference, with the adoption of case processing standards of 365 days for completion of civil cases, and 120 days for completion of both criminal and domestic relations cases. To determine whether Alaska courts meet these standards, during FY 84 the court system collected and analyzed two years of data for closed cases in each superior court location, and measured actual case processing time against the standards. This study revealed that the FY 83 statewide median time for felony dispositions was 106 days from arrest. In civil cases, the statewide median was 334 days from filing to disposition, with a 459 day median in tort cases.

In Anchorage, which processes half of the court's caseload, delay is not as critical a problem as in some other jurisdictions. When compared with 32 other court systems by the National Center for State Courts, Anchorage ranked eighth in time required to process a criminal case (120 days) and seventh in processing time for tort cases (455 days from filing to disposition). To improve disposition times and keep delay under control as Anchorage caseloads grow, the National Center has begun developing a case management system for Anchorage. At the statewide level, in FY 85 each court will receive a detailed report on case processing times, accompanied by an assessment of the specific causes of delay. When FY 84 statistics are compiled, the court system will be able to review an additional year of case processing data.

In addition to developing a statistical basis for court administrators and judges to analyze the causes of pretrial delay, the court system has been examining ways to reduce delay by simplifying civil litigation in specific problem areas: domestic relations, personal injury and commercial litigation. Three task forces composed of judges, lawyers and other justice system professionals met throughout FY 84. During FY 85, the Alaska

Members of the public receive assistance in the Anchorage clerk's office.

Supreme Court will review the recommendations of the task forces.

Records, Statistics and Information Systems

The Alaska Court System creates and maintains a large volume of diverse records which must be prepared accurately, stored safely, and indexed for quick retrieval by the courts, litigants, other agencies and the public.

In FY 84 the court system took significant steps toward the goal of implementing a useful, reliable information system, which will be supported by automated data and word processing equipment in selected courts. When the project is complete, all of the superior court caseload statewide will be automated, and approximately 95% of the district court caseload.

The computer system will organize case information to provide automated case records, case calendaring, name indexes and word processing, to generate receipts, accounting reports, notices to attorneys and automated judgment orders in high volume criminal cases, and to compile machine readable caseload statistics. These systems will eliminate manual card files and reports, and provide access to a wide range of information which can be organized easily.

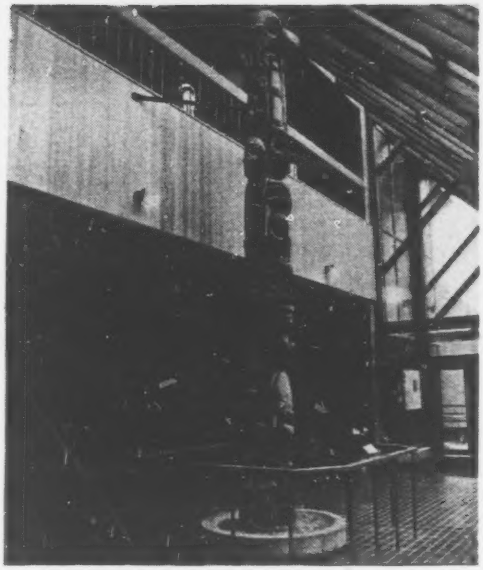
By January 1985 the automation project in the smaller court locations will be substantially complete, with microcomputer systems installed in thirteen trial courts (Barrow, Bethel, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome, Palmer, Seward, Sitka and Valdez). A small calendaring management system in Fairbanks will produce court calendars and notices. A system to process appellate court records has been operating since January 1984. Installation at other court sites and in the administrative office will be completed in 1985.

All system design, programming, training and maintenance on this project is provided by the technical operations section of the administrative office, with the assistance of the electronics engineering section.

Other FY 84 information management activities centered on records already maintained by the courts. A records retention schedule was developed for district court records. The schedule identifies documents which should be kept permanently in their original form, documents which should be microfilmed and other types of records, such as old traffic tickets, which will be purged completely after a specific length of time.

Space and Equipment Management

The Alaska Court System as a separate branch of government is responsible for construction and operation of court facilities, including state law libraries, and for procurement of equipment necessary for court operations. Management decisions in these areas impact both the day-to-day operation of the courts and case processing statewide.



The Friendship totem pole in the lobby of the Juneau court and office building

FY 84: Completed Improvements

The Alaska Court System maintains court facilities in 55 locations across the state. These facilities range from multi-million dollar court complexes in metropolitan areas to one room offices in rural locations. Each year the court system upgrades its facilities by building or leasing new or improved space and by remodeling existing structures.

Court facilities have special requirements. Soundproofing is needed to assure the confidentiality of judicial conferences. Court proceedings should not be disturbed by noise from the surrounding environment, especially since the proceedings are electronically recorded. The deliberations of jurors must be private. Successful court design requires consideration of the specialized functions of courtroom procedures and hearings which involve many different participants. Overall building design must take into account efficient and secure circulation patterns for the public, jurors, litigants, court personnel and prisoners.

During FY 84 facility improvement projects were completed in five court locations.

Anchorage

Remodeling was completed in March of 1984 of approximately 8,200 square feet in the Boney Building of the Anchorage courthouse complex. This project included: one 14-person jury trial courtroom; two jury deliberation rooms with four toilets for the handicapped; one judge's chambers; one secretary's office; an improved reception/waiting area for the Juvenile Intake section; an area for secured storage; one prisoner holding cell for juveniles; one new hearing room for the probate section along with a public counter/reception area and all necessary support space for the probate master, deputy probate master, legal technician, and adequate space for records storage; one auxiliary multi-purpose/hearing room; three additional offices for use by public guardians; one private office for a family court master; a media courtroom designed for the press and others who wish to use electronic equipment to record court proceedings; three secured reception areas to control access into private hallways.

Juneau

A courtroom on the second floor of the Juneau courthouse was remodeled in October 1984 to create a 14-person jury box and two toilets in the adjacent jury room. This project expands the ability of the court to handle jury trials.

Naknek

In February 1984 construction was completed in the remodeling of approximately 1,700 square feet on the first floor of the Bristol Bay Borough Building in Naknek. This remodeling project provides the following facilities: one small 12-person jury trial courtroom; a jury deliberation/conference room; clerk's office with public counter; a soundproofed magistrate's office and a witness/attorney conference room. This project was completed with the cooperation of the Bristol Bay Borough.

Nenana

In June 1984 an air conditioning system was installed in the Nenana courthouse to alleviate overheating in the courtroom.

Palmer

In October 1983 construction was completed in the remodeling of approximately 260 square feet of additional space in the Palmer courthouse. This project lessened the overcrowding of the clerk's office by expanding into space in a walkway adjacent to the existing court facilities.

FY 84: Funded Improvements

During FY 84 the legislature funded improvements in six court locations to be completed in 1985. The legislature also authorized the supreme court to enter into a lease-purchase agreement for construction of a court facility in Anchorage.

The specific improvements in the locations listed below are summarized in Table I.

Angoon

The present court facility in Angoon is a 400 square foot outdated modular unit which also has served as the police station and jail. During FY 84 the court system worked with the architects for the city of Angoon to develop detailed plans for a proposed 4000 square foot court and city hall building, to be completed in the spring of 1985.

Barrow

Early in 1984 the court system awarded a long term lease for a major court facility in Barrow. Occupancy is expected in June 1985. This lease is for a basic term of fifteen years.

TABLE I

Facility Improvements Funded in FY 84
Location and Type of Space

	ANGOON	BARROW	CORDOVA	PETERSBURG	YAKUTAT
Square Feet	1,000	10,000	3,960	5,525	3,350
12-juror courtroom	X				
14-juror courtroom		X	X	X	X
Magistrate office	X	X	X	X	X
Multi-purpose office	X			X	
Storage	X	X	X	X	X
Jury deliberation room		X	X	X	X
Clerk's office		X	X	X	X
Judge's chambers		X	X	X	
Witnesses/attorney conference rooms		X	X	X	X
Law library		X		X	
Multi-purpose hearing room		X	X	X	
Secretarial office		X			
Prisoner holding		X			
Law clerk office		X			

Cordova

Requests for proposals to lease approximately 3,960 square feet of court and office space in Cordova were advertised in May 1984. An award was made in June 1984. Occupancy is expected in early 1985.

Fairbanks

The 1984 legislature appropriated $145,000 for three remodeling projects at the Fairbanks courthouse, with completion scheduled for FY 85. Space on the first floor will be renovated to improve the operations of the traffic section. Minor renovations of the transcript section, coroner's office and a district courtroom were also funded.

Approximately 100 headbolt heaters will be installed on the top floor of the Fairbanks parking structure along with provisions for an air curtain.

Petersburg

A request for proposals to provide approximately 5,525 square feet of leased space for the court was advertised in the fall of 1984, with occupancy expected in spring 1985.

Yakutat

A request for proposals to lease approximately 3,350 square feet of court and office space in Yakutat was advertised in May 1984. An award was made in June 1984. Occupancy is expected in 1985.

Courthouse in Palmer

Libraries

The Alaska Court System maintains libraries in 16 court locations. The provision of library services in remote locations is a major challenge for the court system. An example is the library in Barrow, which does not contain all the hard copy books required for use by the superior court, and has no expansion room. During FY 84 a pilot project was developed for Barrow, involving installation of the Lexis system for computer assisted legal research. This system allows a user to conduct research into reported cases by viewing a computer screen. The terminal will provide the court with needed legal research resources in the limited space available.

Other FY 84 library activities included developing a branch operating manual, hiring professional librarians to head both reference and technical services, and efforts to acquire and implement an integrated online library system with common machine readable data base to support acquisitions, inventory control, patron access catalog and serials catalog.

New Equipment

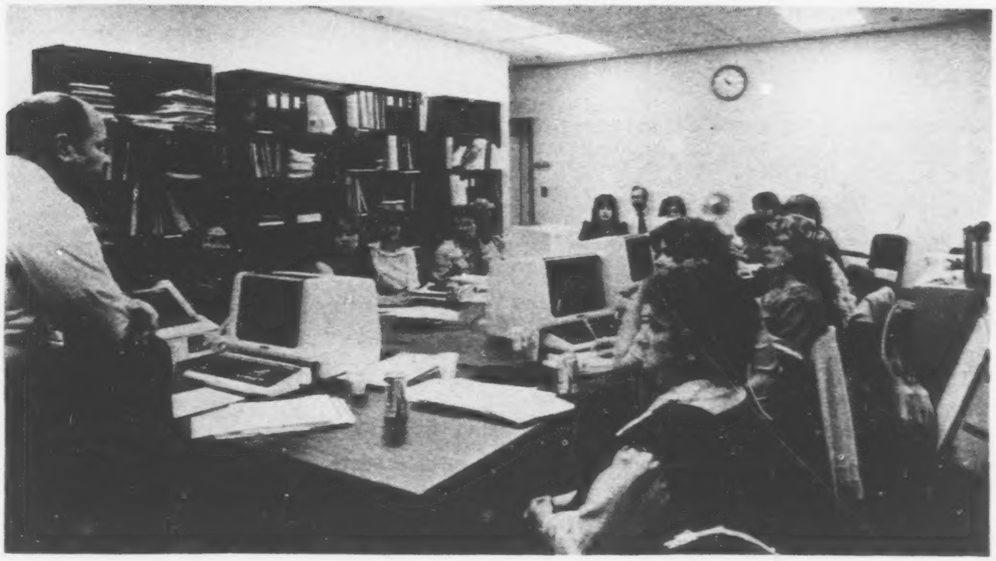
The Alaska Court System FY 84 capital budget funded the replacement of an obsolete reel-to-reel recording system with state of the art cassette tape recorders, playback units and tape duplicators. The new equipment will reduce costs and increase convenience for all users. The quality of the record will improve and duplication of the record will be greatly facilitated. Because telephonic coupling is included in the equipment, telephonic court appearances will become electronically feasible in matters authorized by court rule. The new equipment will be adaptable to meet special needs of hearing impaired individuals and the electronic media. Additionally, court personnel will find the new equipment substantially easier to use and less obtrusive in the courtroom.

System procurement was completed in FY 84, followed by a period of equipment design and laboratory testing. The new equipment will first be installed in selected courtrooms for on-site testing, and statewide installation will be completed in fall of 1985.

In-Service Education and Training

Continuing education and training improves judicial and clerical competence. New judges must be oriented to their duties, while more experienced judges require updating on legal developments. Clerks must be trained in caseflow and personnel management.

In FY 84 eleven judges attended sessions at the National Judicial College. Judges also attended the 1984 Alaska Judicial Conference in Anchorage on June 4-6, 1984.



Manager of Technical Operations Dick Delaplain
leads discussion on new computer systems
at June 1984 statewide clerks' conference

Topics presented included search and seizure, domestic violence, substance abuse, and litigation under the Uniform Commercial Code.

Ten magistrates attended courses at the National Judicial College or a course sponsored by the American Bar Association. Additional training was provided by training judges and staff of the administrative offices with regular visits to magistrates in their own court locations for on-site training.

Six in-state magistrate training conferences were conducted between July 1, 1983 and June 30, 1984. All magistrates are scheduled to attend at least one conference. A new magistrate training conference was held September 12-16, 1983 in Anchorage. A training conference for magistrates in the Bethel area was held September 26-30, 1983 in Bethel. A training conference for magistrates in the Nome/Kotzebue area was held October 31 to November 3, 1983 in Nome. A third and fourth district magistrate training conference was held November 28 to December 2, 1983 in Anchorage. A first district training conference was held February 6-10, 1984 in Sitka. An acting magistrate training conference was held April 2-6, 1984 in Anchorage.

Twenty clerks of court from around the state met in Anchorage during the week of June 4 for the sixth statewide clerks' conference. Sessions included discussion of the new computer system, execution procedures, calculation of interest, new procedures for licensing process servers and exhibits. The conference concluded with a time management program.

Legislation Affecting Court System Operations

Several measures enacted during the 1984 legislative session will result in major changes for the justice system, including the courts.

Chapter 55 established an Office of Public Advocacy under the Department of Administration to perform the duties of the public guardian, to provide representation for those defendants the public defender cannot represent because of a conflict, and to administer other statutorily required advocacy services, such as providing guardian ad litem services to children. This office replaces the previous system of appointing private attorneys at court system expense to represent indigent persons who cannot be represented by the public defender. Brant McGee serves as director of the office, which is headquartered in Anchorage.

An additional change of particular interest to courts and justice agencies in Ketchikan and Bethel is a provision permitting the chief justice to make exceptions to the venue requirements. The chief justice may change venue to an adjoining judicial or senate district if he determines that transportation facilities reasonably require such a change. Such an exception must be consistent with state and federal constitutions (Chapter 137, effective July 3, 1984). This legislation was proposed by the court system to address venue problems which arise when election district boundaries shift following reapportionment.

The legislature also recognized the rights of victims (Chapter 154, effective October 3, 1984). Under this legislation, the sentencing report prepared by the court for each felony offender must include information from a victim impact statement prepared by the probation officer. The rights of victims outlined in the statute include the right to be informed by the appropriate law enforcement agency of the date of trial and sentencing, and the right to be notified that a hearing to which the victim has been subpoenaed will not occur as scheduled. The law provides that victims' employers, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and the courts shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that victims have these rights.

Under Chapter 58, effective May 26, 1984, the responsibility for paying for the costs of post-mortem examinations and autopsies ordered by the court was transferred from the court system to the Department of Health and Social Services. The bill provides for free casket and clothing for the deceased following a court-ordered autopsy if the person legally responsible for burial is indigent.

The legislature funded four new judicial positions in Anchorage, two with the superior court and two with the district court. Two additional district court positions in Anchorage were also authorized, but were not funded for FY 85.

The legislature specifically authorized the supreme court to enter into a lease-purchase agreement for construction of a court facility in Anchorage. Existing supreme court authority over court facilities was expanded to include leasing (Chapter 78, effective June 7, 1984).

Substantive Legislation

Legislative action in the following areas will impact both court procedures and workloads:

Community Work. The legislature established uniform rates at which fines or jail time may be "worked off" through community service with each hour of community service work worth $3.00 towards a fine and eight hours of work counting as one day towards a jail sentence (Chapter 104, effective September 17, 1984; AS 12.55.055).

Mandatory Vehicle Insurance. The court will report to DMV any failure by a person charged with a six point traffic violation to provide proof of insurance, and will hear appeals from license suspensions by the Department of Public Safety for failure to insure a motor vehicle as required (Chapter 70, effective January 1, 1985).

Child Safety Devices. Persons charged with failure to secure a child in a safety device as required by law can have their citations dismissed if they provide proof of acquisition and installation of a device, but will come before the court if they have been previously convicted, have forfeited the bail amount, or have provided proof on a prior occasion (Chapter 99, effective June 8, 1985).

Real Estate Surety Fund. Persons who file claims against the real estate surety fund for losses suffered from fraud, misrepresentation, deceit or conversion of trust funds by brokers or real estate salespersons must now file small claims actions, rather than claims before the real estate commission, at the election of the broker (Chapter 15, effective October 7, 1984).

New Citation Authority and Bail Forfeiture Procedures. Persons charged with fish and game misdemeanors, offenses in state parks, and smoking violations may now be issued a citation rather than arrested. Persons charged with minor offenses who do not want to appear in court can mail in a bail forfeiture amount specified by the supreme court along with a plea of no contest. (Fish and Game: Chapter 132, effective July 3, 1984; Park Offenses: Chapter 102, effective June 15, 1984; Smoking in Public Places: Chapter 34, effective July 17, 1984).

Other Action

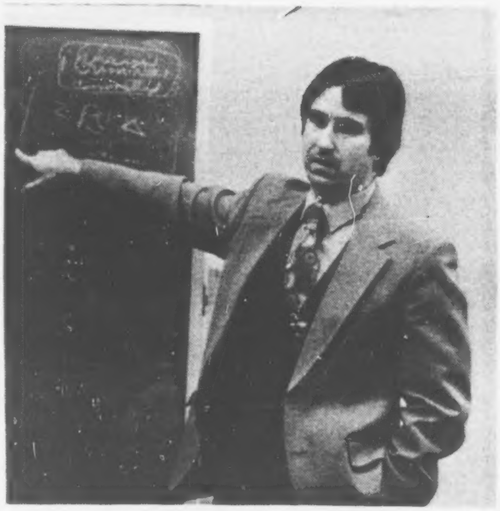
The legislature also revised procedures for mental commitments requiring guardians ad litem for minors, extending the duration of commitment periods, and expanding the definition of gravely disabled. (Chapter 142, effective September 30, 1984). Child support enforcement procedures were also strengthened (Chapter 144, effective July 4, 1984).

Court Rules

The Alaska Constitution provides that the supreme court shall make and promulgate rules governing the administration of all courts, and the practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases. Requests for changes to rules come from judges, the bar, court system administration and the general public. The administrative office assists the court in evaluating and analyzing its rules.

Major rules projects during FY 84 resulted in recommendations for increased use of taped audio-visual depositions, which will decrease the cost of discovery to the average litigant. Another project with potential cost savings is a proposed rule to encourage handling certain types of court proceedings over the telephone. The supreme court also transferred licensing authority over process servers from the courts to the Department of Public Safety.

In FY 84 Don C. Bauermeister replaced Judge Thomas B. Stewart as court rules attorney, and the position moved from Juneau to Anchorage.



Court Rules Attorney
Don C. Bauermeister

Court Personnel

The personnel office establishes job classification and salary structure for classified personnel, and assists with hiring, evaluation, promotion, termination and other personnel action.

An overall personnel goal of the Alaska Court System is to increase the number of minorities employed by the court system.

The minimum total minority hiring goals for the court system in FY 84 were 60 Alaska Natives, 18 Blacks, three Asian/Pacific Islanders and at least three employees classified as Other Minorities, for a total of 84 minority employees. Although the hiring goals for other minorities were exceeded in FY 84, Alaska Natives are underrepresented in the workforce.

At the end of FY 84, 479 nonjudicial personnel were employed by the Alaska Court System. The racial composition of the nonjudicial workforce was 397 Caucasians (82.9%), 37 Alaska Natives (7.7%), 24 Blacks (5.8%), six Asian/Pacific Islanders (1.3%), and 11 (2.3%) employees who were classified as Other Minorities. Eighty-two minorities represented 17.1% of the total workforce.

During FY 84, 189 nonjudicial positions were filled. One hundred fifty-three (153) positions were filled by new hires and 36 positions were filled by promotions. Of the newly hired personnel, there were 120 Caucasians, 19 Alaska Natives, eight Blacks, one Asian/Pacific Islander and five employees classified as Other Minorities. Of the promoted employees there were 31 Caucasians, three Alaska Natives and two Blacks.

Women represent 86% of the nonjudicial workforce. They filled 95% of first-line supervisory positions, 84% of the professional positions, 51% of the law clerk positions and 37% of the managerial positions.

Public Information

By the end of FY 84, brochures in question and answer form became available to the public in major court locations. Topics include bail, the role of guardians ad litem, mental commitments, traffic court, and change of name procedures.

As required by law, the court system also provides detailed informational booklets for small claims and procedures for executing on judgments. Forms and the handbooks explaining execution procedures were revised in FY 84. Other court forms are continually reviewed and updated as needed by the forms committee, which is appointed by the supreme court.

TABLE II

COMPOSITION OF
CLASSIFIED AND NON-JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES

				MALE					FEMALE				
Ranges	Total Employees	Total Female	Total Minority	Caucasian	Alaska Native	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Other	Caucasian	Alaska Native	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Other
6 & 8	90	84	25	6	0	0	0	0	59	9	10	1	5
10	115	105	23	7	2	0	0	1	85	12	5	2	1
12	126	124	21	2	0	0	0	0	103	8	8	2	3
13 & 14	41	39	8	1	1	0	0	0	32	4	3	0	0
15 - 20	37	31	3	6	0	0	0	0	28	1	1	0	1
21 & Above	35	13	2	21	0	0	1	0	12	0	1	0	0
Law Clerk	35	18	0	17	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0
Total Employees	479	414	82	60	3	0	1	1	337	34	28	5	10

Law Day

A special educational effort is undertaken annually in several court locations to commemorate law day. In Anchorage, students participated in a mock civil trial in the supreme courtroom. The issue was whether a female high school student trying out for an all-male soccer team was given a fair tryout. A six-person jury panel selected at random from the students present unanimously decided in the girl's favor after listening to the testimony presented by witnesses.

In Sitka, a full day was devoted to mock court proceedings. Students assumed all roles from judge to bailiff and were advised and assisted by their counterparts throughout the preparation and actual presentation of the mock hearing. Along with the main jury, which was selected in advance, "mini-juries" were randomly appointed, and each group submitted an oral decision through its chosen foreman.

Sitka Attorney Pete Ehrhardt with participating students

Anchorage area students assembled in the supreme courtroom for a mock trial.

Statistics

FOREWORD

This statistical supplement is designed primarily for research applications. It is comprised of six sections dealing with appellate and trial court statistics. Appellate court statistics are subdivided into sections on the supreme court and court of appeals. Trial court statistics are comprised of sections on superior courts, higher volume district courts and lower volume district courts.

During FY 1981, the administrative office reviewed data collection, processing, and analyses procedures upon which annual reports had been based. It was the conclusion of this review that substantial changes should be made in these procedures. The FY 1981 annual report reflected these changes in that substantially less detailed case processing information was published.

The administrative office is continuing a multi-year program (begun in 1982) to revise its data collection and data processing capabilities and procedures. This program involves the installation of several micro-processor based computers in local courts to support day-to-day operations in the court and simultaneously to provide all necessary statistical information to the administrative office.

Computer systems will be installed over a three year transition period. Since a system must be operational for a full fiscal year before a complete year of detailed automated caseload data is available, it will be at least two more years before all caseload is fully automated for annual report purposes. During this transition period, significantly less detailed informaation will be published in the annual reports. The data will, however, be consistent from year to year for comparison purposes.

As the transition is accomplished, the level of specificity that was contained in previous annual reports will be gradually reintroduced. Some lack of detailed data in this transition period is unfortunately inevitable.

Any reader with questions, comments or suggestions about this statistical supplement is encouraged to contact:

Manager, Technical Operations
Office of the
Administrative Director
303 K Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Telephone: (907) 264-0544

INDEX TO STATISTICAL TABLES

Supreme Court

S - 3 Summary of Filings FY 82 - FY 84
S - 3 Summary of Dispositions FY 82 - FY 84
S - 4 Dispositions by Type of Disposition FY 84
S - 4 Cases Pending as of June 30, 1984
S - 5 Reasons for Cases Pending

Court of Appeals

S - 9 Summary of Filings FY 82 - FY 84
S - 9 Summary of Dispositions FY 82 - FY 84
S - 10 Dispositions by Type of Disposition FY 84
S - 10 Cases Pending as of June 30, 1984
S - 11 Reasons for Cases Pending

Statewide Trial Court

S - 15 Alaska Population
S - 16 Alaska Courts Distribution of Population, Police and Lawyers
S - 17 Alaska Courts Authorized Judicial Positions
S - 18 Alaska Courts Authorized Personnel Positions
S - 19 Alaska Courts Operating Costs
S - 20 Alaska Courts Distribution of Population, Costs and Judges
S - 21 Alaska Courts FY 84 Filings
S - 22 Alaska Courts FY 84 Dispositions

Superior Court

S - 25 Superior Court - Caseload FY 1984
S - 27 Summary of Filings by Court FY 81 - FY 84
S - 28 Composition of Filings FY 84
S - 29 Summary of Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 30 Felony Cases Filings FY 81 - FY 84
S - 31 Felony Cases Composition of Filings FY 84
S - 32 Felony Cases Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 33 Probate Cases Filings FY 81 - FY 84
S - 34 Probate Cases Composition of Filings FY 84
S - 35 Probate Cases Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 36 Domestic Relations Cases Filings FY 81 - FY 84
S - 37 Domestic Relations Cases Composition of Filings FY 84
S - 38 Domestic Relations Cases Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 39 Other Civil Cases Filings FY 81 - FY 84
S - 40 Other Civil Cases Composition of Filings FY 84
S - 41 Other Civil Cases Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 42 Children's Matters Filings FY 81 - FY 84
S - 43 Children's Matters Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 44 Children's Matters Formal Dispositions FY 84

District Court (Higher Volume)

S - 47 Higher Volume District Courts - Caseload FY 1984
S - 49 District Court Filings FY 81 - FY 84
S - 50 Composition of Filings - FY 84
S - 51 District Court Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 52 Summary of Non-Traffic Filings FY 81 - FY 84
S - 53 Summary of Non-Traffic Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 54 Felony Cases Filings FY 81 - FY 84
S - 55 Composition of Felony Filings - FY 84
S - 56 Felony Cases Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 57 Misdemeanor Cases Filings FY 81 - FY 84
S - 58 Misdemeanor Cases Composition of FY 84 Filings
S - 59 Misdemeanor Cases Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 60 Small Claims Cases Filings FY 81 - FY 84
S - 61 Small Claims Cases Disposition FY 81 - FY 84
S - 62 Other Civil Cases Filings FY 81 - FY 84
S - 63 Other Civil Cases Composition of Filings FY 84
S - 64 Other Civil Cases Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 65 Traffic Cases Dispositions FY 81 - FY 84
S - 66 Traffic Cases Composition of Dispositions FY 84
S - 67 Children's Matters Filings FY 84
S - 68 Children's Matters Dispositions FY 84

District Court (Lower Volume)

S - 71 Lower Volume District Courts - Caseload FY 1984
S - 73 Summary of FY 84 Filings by District
S - 73 Summary of FY 84 Disposition by District
S - 74 First Judicial District Filings FY 84
S - 74 First Judicial District Dispositions FY 84
S - 75 Second Judicial District Filings FY 84
S - 75 Second Judicial District Dispositions FY 84
S - 76 Third Judicial District Filings FY 84
S - 76 Third Judicial District Dispositions FY 84
S - 77 Fourth Judicial District Filings FY 84
S - 77 Fourth Judicial District Filings FY 84
S - 78 Bethel Area Filings FY 84
S - 78 Bethel Area Dispositions FY 84

Appellate

SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT
SUMMARY OF FILINGS
FY 82 - FY 84

TYPE OF CASE	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Appeals:				
Civil	260	270	300	+ 11
* Criminal	36	93	79	- 15
* Sentence	1	15	13	- 13
Petitions for Review	103	115	129	+ 12
Original Applications	16	19	20	+ 5
TOTAL	416	512	541	+ 6

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPREME COURT
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS
FY 82 - FY 84

TYPE OF CASE	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Appeals:				
Civil	273	307	325	+ 6
* Criminal	26	83	89	+ 7
* Sentence	1	12	12	--
Petitions for Review	102	118	119	+ 1
Original Applications	20	18	22	+ 22
TOTAL	422	538	567	+ 5

*NOW HANDLED BY COURT OF APPEALS

SUPREME COURT
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION

FY 84

TYPE OF CASE	DISPOSITION BY		TOTAL
	MERIT	NOT ON MERIT	
Appeals:			
Civil	215	110	325
* Criminal	14	75	89
* Sentence	--	12	12
Petitions for Review	13	106	119
Original Applications	15	7	22
TOTAL	257	310	567
% OF TOTAL	45%	55%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

SUPREME COURT
CASES PENDING AS OF JUNE 30, 1984

TYPE OF CASE	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY83 to FY84
Appeals:				
Civil	353	316	291	- 8
* Criminal	23	33	21	- 36
* Sentence	1	4	5	+ 25
Petitions for Review	29	26	38	+ 46
Original Applications	6	7	5	- 29
TOTAL	412	386	360	- 7

*NOW HANDLED BY COURT OF APPEALS

SUPREME COURT
REASON FOR CASES PENDING

JUNE 30, 1984

TYPE OF CASE	CASE AWAITING							STAYED	TOTAL
	DRAFT OPINION CIRCULATING	AWAITING DRAFT OPINION	RECORDS	BRIEFS	ARGUMENT	DECISION	REHEARING		
Appeals:									
Civil	46	51	43	103	31	--	2	15	291
Criminal	3	--	--	9	3	2	-	4	21
Children's									
Sentence	1	--	--	3	--	1	-	--	5
Petitions for Review	1	3	--	19	11	3	-	1	38
Original Applications	1	--	3	--	--	-	-	1	5
TOTAL	52	54	46	134	45	6	2	21	360
% OF TOTAL	14%	15%	13%	37%	12%	2%	1%	6%	100%

COURT OF APPEALS

COURT OF APPEALS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS
FY 82 - FY 84

TYPE OF CASE	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Appeals:				
Merit	249	339	312	- 8
Sentence	117	166	150	- 10
Petitions for Review	78	73	64	- 12
Original Applications	12	3	5	+ 67
TOTAL	456	581	531	- 9

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

COURT OF APPEALS
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS
FY 82 - FY 84

TYPE OF CASE	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Appeals:				
Merit	174	347	276	- 20
Sentence	63	171	168	- 2
Petitions for Review	79	72	77	+ 7
Original Applications	12	4	5	+ 25
TOTAL	328	594	526	- 11

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

COURT OF APPEALS
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION

FY 84

TYPE OF CASE	DISPOSITION BY		TOTAL
	MERITS	NOT ON MERITS	
Appeals:			
Merit	237	39	276
Sentence	142	26	168
Petitions for Review	22	55	77
Original Applications	1	4	5
TOTAL	402	124	526
% OF TOTAL	76%	24%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

COURT OF APPEALS
CASES PENDING AS OF JUNE 30, 1984

TYPE OF CASE	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE
Appeals:				
Merit	330	322	350	+ 9
Sentence	101	96	82	- 15
Petitions for Review	17	18	11	- 39
Original Applications	1	---	--	--
TOTAL	449	436	443	+ 2

COURT OF APPEALS
REASON FOR CASES PENDING
JUNE 30, 1984

TYPE OF CASE	CASE AWAITING							STAYED AND/OR REMAND	TOTAL
	DRAFT DISPOSITION CIRCULATING	AWAITING DRAFT DISPOSITION	RECORDS	BRIEFS	SUBMISSION	DECISION	REHEARING		
Appeals:									
Merit	31	66	64	122	39	-	4	24	350
Sentence	19	30	6	18	4	-	-	5	82
Petitions for Review	--	--	--	5	1	3	1	1	11
Original Applications	--	--	--	--	-	-	-	--	--
TOTAL	50	96	70	145	44	3	5	30	443
% OF TOTAL	11%	21%	16%	33%	10%	1%	1%	7%	100%

Statewide Trial Courts

STATEWIDE TRIAL COURT

ALASKA POPULATION

LOCATION	POPULATION			% INCREASE 1980 TO 1984	% OF STATE-WIDE TOTAL
	1980 CENSUS	1984 ESTIMATE	INCREASE		
Anchorage	173,017	218,131	45,114	+ 26	44.5
Barrow	4,199	5,116	917	+ 22	1.0
Bethel	13,354	15,056	1,702	+ 13	3.1
Delta Junction	3,954	3,780	- 174	- 4	.8
Fairbanks	53,983	65,386	11,403	+ 21	13.3
Glenallen	501	567	66	+ 13	.1
Haines	1,680	2,039	359	+ 21	.4
Homer	2,209	2,828	619	+ 28	.6
Juneau	19,528	23,435	3,907	+ 20	4.8
Kenai	19,785	27,105	7,320	+ 37	5.5
Ketchikan	11,316	13,557	2,241	+ 20	2.8
Kotzebue	3,478	4,681	1,203	+ 35	.9
Kodiak	9,939	9,518	- 421	- 4	1.9
Nome	5,229	6,939	1,710	+ 33	1.4
Palmer	17,766	22,717	4,951	+ 28	4.6
Seward	2,809	2,917	108	+ 4	.6
Sitka	7,803	9,361	1,558	+ 20	1.9
Tok	1,702	1,620	- 82	- 5	.3
Valdez	5,408	6,340	932	+ 17	1.3
Wrangell	2,363	2,841	478	+ 20	.6
Petersburg	3,249	3,874	625	+ 19	.8
Other (Low Volume)	37,095	41,916	4,821	+ 13	8.5
TOTAL	400,481	489,724	89,243	+ 22	100.0

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	53,794	64,559	10,765	+ 20	13.2
Second	15,567	20,291	4,724	+ 30	4.1
Third	247,830	308,067	60,237	+ 24	62.9
Fourth	83,290	96,807	13,517	+ 16	19.8

*JANUARY 1984 ESTIMATE - UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

ALASKA COURTS

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, POLICE AND LAWYERS

LOCATION	POPULATION	* TOTAL NUMBER POLICE	POLICE PER THOUSAND POPULATION 3÷2X1000	** TOTAL NUMBER LAWYERS	LAWYERS PER THOUSAND POPULATION 5÷2X1000
Anchorage	218,131	310	1.4	1,110	5.1
Barrow	5,116	36	7.0	9	1.8
Bethel	15,056	22	1.5	18	1.2
Delta Junction	3,780	3	.8	---	---
Fairbanks	65,386	108	1.7	174	2.7
Glennallen	567	5	8.8	---	---
Haines	2,039	6	2.9	2	.9
Homer	2,828	11	3.9	11	3.9
Juneau	23,435	43	1.8	191	8.2
Kenai	27,105	38	1.4	33	1.2
Ketchikan	13,557	43	3.2	38	2.8
Kotzebue	4,681	15	3.2	8	1.7
Kodiak	9,518	24	2.5	22	2.3
Nome	6,939	14	2.0	10	1.4
Palmer	22,717	36	1.6	31	1.4
Petersberg	3,874	8	2.1	2	.5
Seward	2,917	11	3.8	1	.3
Sitka	9,361	17	1.8	17	1.8
Tok	1,620	1	.6	---	---
Valdez	6,340	15	2.4	6	.9
Wrangell	2,841	6	2.1	2	.7
Total	447,808	772	1.7	1,685	3.8

*LETTERS FROM LOCAL POLICE DEPTS & STATE TROOPERS

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**ALASKA BAR ROSTER 6/29/84

First	55,107	123	2.2	252	4.6
Second	16,736	65	3.9	27	1.6
Third	290,123	450	1.6	1,214	4.2
Fourth	85,842	134	1.6	192	2.2

ALASKA COURTS
AUTHORIZED JUDICIAL POSITIONS
JUNE 30, 1984

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	MAGI-STRATES	MASTERS	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL
Anchorage	10	7	5	4	26	24.5
Barrow	1	-	1	-	2	1.9
Bethel	1	-	1	-	2	1.9
Delta Junction	-	-	1	-	1	.9
Fairbanks	4	4	2	1	11	10.4
Glenallen	-	-	1	-	1	.9
Haines	-	-	1	-	1	.9
Homer	-	1	-	-	1	.9
Juneau	2	1	1	-	4	3.8
Kenai	1	-	1	-	2	1.9
Ketchikan	1	1	-	-	2	1.9
Kotzebue	1	-	1	-	2	1.9
Kodiak	1	-	1	-	2	1.9
Nome	1	-	1	-	2	1.9
Palmer	1	-	1	-	2	1.9
Seward	-	-	1	-	1	.9
Sitka	1	-	1	-	2	1.9
Tok	-	-	1	-	1	.9
Valdez	1	-	-	-	1	.9
Wrangell	1	-	1	-	2	1.9
Petersburg	-	-	1	-	1	.9
Other (Low Volume)	-	-	37	-	37	34.9
TOTAL	27	14	60	5	106	100.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	5	2	11	-	18	17.0
Second	3	-	11	-	14	13.2
Third	14	8	19	4	45	42.4
Fourth	5	4	19	1	29	27.4

ALASKA COURTS
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL POSITIONS
AS OF JUNE 30, 1984

LOCATION	POSITIONS BY RANGE					% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL
	BELOW 10	10 THROUGH 12	13 THROUGH 16	OVER 16	TOTAL	
Anchorage	39	94	36	9	178	45.8
Barrow	2	3	1	-	6	1.5
Bethel	2	3	1	-	6	1.5
Delta Junction	1	-	-	-	1	.3
Fairbanks	8	53	10	8	79	20.3
Glenallen	1	1	-	-	2	.5
Haines	-	1	-	-	1	.3
Homer	1	1	1	-	3	.8
Juneau	2	12	5	1	20	5.1
Kenai	2	9	2	1	14	3.6
Ketchikan	-	10	3	2	15	3.9
Kotzebue	1	4	1	-	6	1.5
Kodiak	3	4	2	-	9	2.3
Nome	-	5	1	-	6	1.5
Palmer	2	6	2	1	11	2.8
Seward	1	1	-	-	2	.5
Sitka	1	4	2	-	7	1.8
Tok	-	1	-	-	1	.3
Valdez	1	2	-	-	3	.8
Wrangell	1	1	-	-	2	.5
Petersburg	2	-	-	-	2	.5
Other (Low Volume)	11	4	-	-	15	3.9
TOTAL	81	219	67	22	389	100.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	9	28	10	3	50	12.9
Second	3	12	3	-	18	4.6
Third	54	121	43	11	229	58.9
Fourth	15	58	11	8	92	23.6

ALASKA COURTS
OPERATING COSTS
(THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)
FY 84

LOCATION	PERSONNEL	OTHER	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL	DOLLAR COST PER CASE FILED	
					ALL FILINGS	LESS TRAFFIC FILINGS
Anchorage	8,737.5	2,458.2	11,195.8	37.9	137	376
Barrow	395.0	472.4	867.4	2.9	1,116	1,146
Bethel	457.7	506.4	964.1	3.3	563	773
Delta Junction	66.8	27.0	93.8	.3	145	434
Fairbanks	4,386.2	1,274.2	5,660.3	19.1	235	605
Glenallen	--	--	--	--	--	--
Haines	--	--	--	--	--	--
Homer	243.6	109.7	353.3	1.2	142	334
Juneau	1,078.3	633.8	1,712.1	5.8	233	359
Kenai	847.8	209.2	1,057.0	3.6	117	278
Ketchikan	857.0	264.4	1,121.3	3.8	215	425
Kotzebue	405.2	110.7	515.9	1.7	366	396
Kodiak	514.3	106.0	620.2	2.1	170	375
Nome	483.2	267.3	750.5	2.5	772	902
Palmer	576.6	308.1	884.7	3.0	105	255
Seward	126.3	23.5	149.8	.5	65	313
Sitka	452.1	89.4	541.5	1.8	192	387
Tok	88.5	79.4	167.9	.6	160	577
Valdez	207.2	57.6	264.8	.9	284	457
Wrangell	260.8	59.3	320.1	1.1	361	515
Petersburg	68.6	54.7	123.4	.4	224	402
Other (Low Volume)	1,433.7	782.9	2,216.6	7.5	286	572
TOTAL	21,686.2	7,894.3	29,580.5	100.	183	442

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2,986.9	1,196.0	4,182.9	14.1	235	399
Second	1,464.2	913.8	2,378.0	8.0	664	720
Third	11,826.3	3,710.2	15,536.5	52.6	139	375
Fourth	5,408.8	2,074.3	7,483.1	25.3	259	640

ALASKA COURTS
DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, COSTS AND JUDGES
FY 84

LOCATION	PERCENTAGE OF STATEWIDE				
	POPULATION	OPERATING COSTS	JUDGES	CASE FILINGS	CASE DISPOSITION
Anchorage	44.5	37.9	25.5	50.5	50.1
Barrow	1.0	2.9	1.9	.5	.4
Bethel	3.1	3.3	1.9	1.1	1.1
Delta Junction	.8	.3	.9	.4	.4
Fairbanks	13.3	19.1	10.4	14.9	15.2
Glenallen	.1		.9	.5	.4
Haines	.4		.9	.1	.1
Homer	.6	1.2	.9	1.5	1.6
Juneau	4.8	5.8	2.8	4.5	4.4
Kenai	5.5	3.6	1.9	5.6	5.6
Ketchikan	2.8	3.8	1.9	3.2	3.3
Kotzebue	.9	1.7	1.9	.9	.9
Kodiak	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.3	2.4
Nome	1.4	2.5	1.9	.6	.7
Palmer	4.6	3.0	1.9	5.2	5.1
Seward	.6	.5	.9	1.4	1.5
Sitka	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.9
Tok	.3	.6	.9	.6	.7
Valdez	1.3	.9	.9	.6	.6
Wrangell	.6	1.1	1.9	.5	.5
Petersburg	.8	.4	.9	.3	.3
Other (Low Volume)	8.5	7.5	34.9	4.2	7.5
TOTAL	100.	100.	100.	100.	100.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	13.2	14.1	16.0	11.0	10.9
Second	4.1	8.0	13.2	2.2	2.2
Third	62.9	52.6	43.4	68.9	68.6
Fourth	19.8	25.3	27.4	17.9	18.3

ALASKA COURTS
FY 84 FILINGS

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL	FILINGS PER JUDGE
Anchorage	10,642	71,119	81,761	50.5%	3,145
Barrow	250	527	777	.5%	389
Bethel	511	1,202	1,713	1.1%	857
Delta Junction	--	647	647	.4%	647
Fairbanks	3,608	20,552	24,160	14.9%	2,196
Glenallen	--	731	731	.5%	731
Haines	--	162	162	.1%	162
Homer	--	2,492	2,492	1.5%	2,492
Juneau	1,177	6,229	7,406	4.5%	1,851
Kenai	951	8,065	9,016	5.6%	4,508
Ketchikan	810	4,395	5,205	3.2%	2,603
Kotzebue	343	1,068	1,411	.9%	706
Kodiak	429	3,222	3,651	2.3%	1,826
Nome	288	684	972	.6%	486
Palmer	867	7,609	8,476	5.2%	4,288
Seward	--	2,321	2,321	1.4%	2,321
Sitka	388	2,426	2,814	1.7%	1,407
Tok	--	1,050	1,050	.6%	1,050
Valdez	--	934	934	.6%	934
Wrangell	* 196	705	901	.5%	451
Petersburg	--	551	551	.3%	551
Other (Low Volume)	--	7,002	7,002	4.2%	189
TOTAL	20,460	141,606	162,066	100. %	1,529

*Wrangell/Petersburg

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2,571	15,304	17,875	11.0%	993
Second	881	2,700	3,581	2.2%	256
Third	12,889	98,670	111,559	68.9%	2,479
Fourth	4,119	24,932	29,051	17.9%	1,002

ALASKA COURTS
FY 84 DISPOSITIONS

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL	DISPOSITIONS PER JUDGE
Anchorage	8,105	67,468	75,573	50.1%	2,907
Barrow	220	457	677	.4%	339
Bethel	440	1,154	1,594	1.1%	797
Delta Junction	---	628	628	.4%	628
Fairbanks	2,839	20,107	22,946	15.2%	2,086
Glenallen	---	576	576	.4%	576
Haines	---	110	110	.1%	110
Homer	---	2,361	2,361	1.6%	2,361
Juneau	898	5,759	6,657	4.4%	1,664
Kenai	722	7,712	8,434	5.6%	4,217
Ketchikan	694	4,305	4,999	3.3%	2,499
Kotzebue	340	992	1,332	.9%	666
Kodiak	331	3,219	3,550	2.4%	1,775
Nome	297	706	1,003	.7%	502
Palmer	605	7,019	7,624	5.1%	3,812
Seward	---	2,232	2,232	1.5%	2,232
Sitka	317	2,474	2,791	1.9%	1,396
Tok	---	1,045	1,045	.7%	1,045
Valdez	---	878	878	.6%	878
Wrangell	140	678	818	.5%	409
Petersburg	---	512	512	.3%	512
Other (Low Volume)	---	11,442	11,442	7.5%	309
TOTAL	15,948	134,893	150,841	100. %	1,423

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2,049	14,519	16,568	10.9%	920
Second	857	2,388	3,245	2.2%	232
Third	9,763	93,624	103,387	68.6%	2,297
Fourth	3,279	24,362	27,641	18.3%	953

Superior

SUPERIOR COURT

SUPERIOR COURT CASELOAD FY 1984

FY 84 statistics reflect an 11% increase from FY 83 in superior court caseloads. This percentage change in workload was not uniform across the state. All but 4 superior court sites reported significant (+10% or higher) increases in caseload during FY 83. Kodiak and Nome, which reported decreases of 5% and 17% respectively, were the only superior court sites to report decreases in case filings. The minimal increase in Anchorage filings lowered the figure for average change in case filings statewide. Without Anchorage case filings included, the superior courts of the state averaged a 17% increase in case filings during FY 84.

All superior court sites reported an increase in the number of cases disposed of during FY 84 in comparison with FY 83. Over half of the superior court sites reported significant (+10% or higher) increases in case dispositions when compared with FY 83 levels. Statewide, there was a 9% increase in superior court dispositions. This statewide increase in dispositions is a positive sign following last year's figures which showed half of the superior courts reporting an overall decrease in case dispositions. However, continued increases in case filings are more than offsetting the increased disposition figures in the state's superior courts. Even with increased dispositions over last year, the superior courts are continuing to build an inventory of pending cases that will have to be dealt with in subsequent years.

FELONY CASES

Felony case filings increased by 15% over FY 83. Half of the superior court sites reported significant (+10% or higher) increases in felony case filings during FY 84. Some cases that in prior years would have been filed in Anchorage are now filed in Palmer, and as a result Anchorage reported a minimal decrease in felony case filings (-3%). Anchorage's volume of cases again tends to offset the statewide average change in case filings. When Anchorage cases are excluded from statewide felony filing totals, the average increase in all other superior courts during FY 84 was 25%.

For the third year, over half (58%) of all felony cases filed carried a primary charge involving either violence or drugs. In prior years, property related offenses have represented over half of all felony filings.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES

Domestic relations case filings increased by 7% over FY 83. Eighty-five percent of this increase (6% of 7%) resulted from increased filings of domestic violence cases. The remaining 1% increase came primarily in filings for dissolution of marriages.

Statewide dispositions of domestic relations cases increased by 9% in FY 84.

PROBATE CASES

Case filings of probate matters increased by 8% over FY 83 levels. This figure is probably somewhat misleading in that Anchorage failed to report an unknown number of Adoption and Sanity cases in FY 83 but provided full reporting in FY 84. Therefore, the actual increase in probate filings may have been somewhat less than the 8% reported. If Anchorage figures are eliminated from the statewide totals, probate filings in other courts averaged a 7% increase over FY 83 levels.

Reported statewide probate case dispositions showed a 6% decrease in FY 84.

OTHER CIVIL MATTERS

Other civil case filings (civil damages, administrative review, contracts and notes, housing and real estate matters) increased 15% in FY 84. Nine of 13 superior courts reported significant (+10% or larger) increases in these civil case filings. Only Barrow and Kodiak reported significant decreases.

Civil case dispositions in this category increased by 15% in FY 84. This reverses a two year trend of decreases and reflects the impact of new superior court judgeships created in FY 82. However, the state's superior courts continue to build an unacceptably large volume of pending civil cases that they cannot handle expeditiously. For example, the number of major civil matters disposed of in FY 84 represented only 71% of the number of these types of civil cases filed in FY 84. The backlog of these major civil cases, which often requires significant judicial resources to close out, continues to grow each year. This increasing backlog of cases directly and negatively affects the length of time that a plaintiff or defendant in a major civil matter may have to wait to have a case resolved in court.

CHILDREN'S MATTERS

Filings of children's matters in superior courts increased by 33% in FY 84. All but 3 court sites reported significant increases (10% or larger) in children's matters filings. Only Nome reported a decrease in dispositions. Until this year, Fairbanks "Children in Need of Aid" cases had been undercounted. With full reporting of these cases this year, the 33% figure for statewide increases may be overstated. It is likely that the actual percentage change in filings during FY 84 was in the 17 to 18% range.

Reported children's matters dispositions increased by 41% in FY 84. This is the first year in the last five that dispositions in children's matters have not decreased. The undercounting in Fairbanks in prior years accounts for some of this increase in dispositions, but only about 5% of the 41% increase can be attributed to changes in reporting from this court.

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS BY COURT

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	7,528	10,394	9,960	10,642	+ 41	+ 7
Barrow	82	185	189	250	+205	+ 32
Bethel	361	355	444	511	+ 42	+ 15
Fairbanks	2,471	2,782	3,138	3,608	+ 46	+ 15
Juneau	836	925	1,022	1,177	+ 41	+ 15
Kenai	658	692	819	951	+ 45	+ 16
Ketchikan	690	746	740	810	+ 17	+ 9
Kodiak	398	337	452	429	+ 8	- 5
Kotzebue	223	184	242	343	+ 54	+ 42
Nome	391	279	345	288	- 26	- 17
*Palmer	--	--	501	867	--	+ 73
Sitka	315	289	350	388	+ 23	+ 11
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	--	--	162	196	--	+ 21
TOTAL	13,953	17,168	18,364	20,460	+ 47	+ 11

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	1,841	1,960	2,274	2,571	+ 40	+ 13
Second	696	648	776	881	+ 27	+ 14
Third	8,584	11,423	11,732	12,889	+ 50	+ 10
Fourth	2,832	3,137	3,582	4,119	+ 45	+ 15

*SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 84

COURT	CRIMINAL		CIVIL			CHIL-DREN'S MATTERS	TOTAL
	FELONY	OTHER	PROBATE	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	OTHER		
Anchorage	563		1,476	5,074	2,892	637	10,642
Barrow	85		21	91	31	22	250
Bethel	142		75	136	54	104	511
Fairbanks	403		537	1,489	645	534	3,608
Juneau	156		122	490	336	73	1,177
Kenai	102		88	425	207	129	951
Ketchikan	53		120	332	147	158	810
Kodiak	53		55	196	88	37	429
Kotzebue	52		47	108	76	60	343
Nome	51		63	81	50	43	288
Palmer	143		72	442	139	71	867
Sitka	24		75	152	61	76	388
Wrangell/ Petersburg	19		29	86	22	40	196
TOTAL	1,846		2,780	9,102	4,748	1,984	20,460
% OF TOTAL	9%		14%	44%	23%	10%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	252		346	1,060	566	347	2,571
Second	188		131	280	157	125	881
Third	861		1,691	6,137	3,326	874	12,889
Fourth	545		612	1,625	699	638	4,119

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	8,413	8,888	8,086	8,105	- 4	+ .2
Barrow	37	130	104	220	+495	+112
Bethel	267	335	436	440	+ 65	+ 1
Fairbanks	2,116	2,284	2,639	2,839	+ 34	+ 8
Juneau	642	755	721	898	+ 40	+ 25
Kenai	601	661	623	722	+ 20	+ 16
Ketchikan	535	625	500	694	+ 30	+ 39
Kodiak	368	307	317	331	- 10	+ 4
Kotzebue	75	187	208	340	+353	+ 63
Nome	373	295	288	297	- 20	+ 3
*Palmer	---	---	291	605	---	+108
Sitka	192	213	290	317	+ 65	+ 9
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	---	---	67	140	---	+109
TOTAL	13,619	14,680	14,570	15,948	+ 17	+ 9

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	1,369	1,593	1,578	2,049	+ 50	+ 30
Second	485	612	600	857	+ 77	+ 43
Third	9,382	9,856	9,317	9,763	+ 4	+ 5
Fourth	2,383	2,619	3,075	3,279	+ 38	+ 7

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS FELONY CASES FILINGS

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	413	480	583	563	+ 36	- 3
Barrow	22	34	54	85	+286	+ 57
Bethel	86	91	99	142	+ 65	+ 43
Fairbanks	240	324	391	403	+ 68	+ 3
Juneau	50	79	110	156	+212	+ 42
Kenai	81	95	100	102	+ 26	+ 2
Ketchikan	107	84	72	53	- 50	- 26
Kodiak	58	45	58	53	- 9	- 9
Kotzebue	39	20	43	52	+ 33	+ 21
Nome	90	60	48	51	- 43	+ 6
*Palmer	---	---	12	143	---	+1092
Sitka	8	5	11	24	+200	+ 118
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	---	---	26	19	---	- 27
TOTAL	1,194	1,317	1,607	1,846	+ 55	+ 15

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	165	168	219	252	+ 53	+ 15
Second	151	114	145	188	+ 25	+ 30
Third	552	620	753	861	+ 56	+ 14
Fourth	326	415	490	545	+ 67	+ 11

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 84

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	FRAUD/ FORGERY	DRUGS	OTHER	
Anchorage	179	231	34	101	18	563
Barrow	56	12	1	6	10	85
Bethel	98	27	4	2	11	142
Fairbanks	163	138	21	55	26	403
Juneau	48	27	10	62	9	156
Kenai	27	26	2	41	6	102
Ketchikan	18	13	3	8	11	53
Kodiak	22	11	3	16	1	53
Kotzebue	26	12	4	5	5	52
Nome	36	14	--	--	1	51
Palmer	63	47	7	21	5	143
Sitka	10	6	3	3	2	24
Wrangell/ Petersburg	5	6	2	5	1	19
TOTAL	751	570	94	325	106	1,846
% OF TOTAL	40%	31%	5%	18%	6%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	81	52	18	78	23	252
Second	118	38	5	11	16	188
Third	291	315	46	179	30	861
Fourth	261	165	25	57	37	545

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
DISPOSITIONS

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	269	532	628	499	+ 86	- 21
Barrow	8	39	44	51	+ 538	+ 16
Bethel	53	87	106	125	+ 136	+ 18
Fairbanks	142	199	362	333	+ 135	- 8
Juneau	50	71	76	89	+ 78	+ 17
Kenai	63	117	82	97	+ 54	+ 18
Ketchikan	72	48	65	74	+ 3	+ 14
Kodiak	53	61	53	49	- 8	- 8
Kotzebue	16	25	44	68	+ 325	+ 55
Nome	74	70	40	48	- 35	+ 20
*Palmer	---	---	9	113	---	+1,156
Sitka	2	5	14	26	+1,200	+ 86
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	---	---	6	16	---	+ 167
TOTAL	802	1,254	1,529	1,588	+ 98	+ 4

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	124	124	161	205	+ 65	+ 27
Second	98	134	128	167	+ 70	+ 30
Third	385	710	772	758	+ 97	- 2
Fourth	195	286	468	458	+ 135	- 2

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASES
FILINGS

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	777	1,833	1,356	1,476	+ 90	+ 9
Barrow	3	15	15	21	+600	+ 40
Bethel	45	43	65	75	+ 67	+ 15
Fairbanks	341	389	521	537	+ 57	+ 3
Juneau	105	118	121	122	+ 16	+ 1
Kenai	61	49	81	88	+ 44	+ 9
Ketchikan	85	84	92	120	+ 41	+ 30
Kodiak	45	36	54	55	+ 22	+ 2
Kotzebue	64	13	42	47	- 27	+ 12
Nome	65	64	75	63	- 3	- 16
*Palmer	---	---	58	72	---	+ 24
Sitka	79	51	80	75	- 5	- 6
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	---	---	16	29	---	+ 81
TOTAL	1,670	2,695	2,576	2,780	+ 66	+ 8

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	269	253	309	346	+ 29	+ 12
Second	132	92	132	131	- 1	- 1
Third	883	1,918	1,549	1,691	+ 92	+ 9
Fourth	386	432	586	612	+ 59	+ 4

*SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 84

COURT	CASE TYPE							TOTAL
	ADOPTION	ESTATES	SANITY	GUARDIANSHIP	PROBATE WAIVER	PROTECTIVE	OTHER	
Anchorage	337	454	448	113	7	110	7	1,476
Barrow	12	2	4	---	--	2	1	21
Bethel	38	14	13	9	--	---	1	75
Fairbanks	161	239	80	41	--	2	14	537
Juneau	33	57	20	8	--	2	2	122
Kenai	17	31	18	7	--	12	3	88
Ketchikan	37	38	34	1	--	8	2	120
Kodiak	19	26	4	1	--	4	1	55
Kotzebue	37	3	6	1	--	---	--	47
Nome	16	21	25	---	--	---	1	63
Palmer	18	25	7	21	--	1	0	72
Sitka	20	40	9	---	--	4	2	75
Wrangell/ Petersburg	5	11	10	1	--	---	2	29
TOTAL	750	961	678	203	7	145	36	2,780
% OF TOTAL	27%	35%	24%	7%	.3%	5%	1%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	95	146	73	10	--	14	8	346
Second	65	26	35	1	--	2	2	131
Third	391	536	477	142	7	127	11	1,691
Fourth	199	253	93	50	--	2	15	612

SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASES
DISPOSITIONS

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	392	1,679	1,076	1,008	+157	- 6
Barrow	1	10	4	4	+300	---
Bethel	41	42	42	43	+ 5	+ 2
Fairbanks	282	321	392	407	+ 44	+ 4
Juneau	62	60	90	90	+ 45	---
Kenai	40	41	40	26	- 35	- 35
Ketchikan	55	67	70	75	+ 36	+ 7
Kodiak	24	27	25	3	- 88	- 88
Kotzebue	8	21	23	49	+512	+113
Nome	85	79	58	36	- 58	- 38
*Palmer	---	---	15	26	---	+ 73
Sitka	41	27	58	16	- 61	- 72
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	---	---	11	14	---	+ 27
TOTAL	1,031	2,374	1,904	1,797	+ 74	- 6

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	158	154	229	195	+ 23	- 15
Second	94	110	85	89	- 5	+ 5
Third	456	1,747	1,156	1,063	+133	- 8
Fourth	323	363	434	450	+ 39	+ 4

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
FILINGS

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	3,737	5,180	4,917	5,074	+ 36	+ 3
Barrow	29	90	65	91	+214	+ 40
Bethel	127	117	160	136	+ 7	- 15
Fairbanks	1,091	1,295	1,333	1,489	+ 36	+ 12
Juneau	401	416	465	490	+ 22	+ 5
Kenai	272	341	354	425	+ 56	+ 20
Ketchikan	263	355	321	332	+ 26	+ 3
Kodiak	204	158	217	196	- 4	- 10
Kotzebue	59	87	82	108	+ 83	+ 32
Nome	106	81	93	81	- 24	- 13
*Palmer	---	---	314	442	---	+ 41
Sitka	140	137	145	152	+ 9	+ 5
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	---	---	80	86	---	+ 8
TOTAL	6,429	8,257	8,546	9,102	+ 42	+ 7

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	804	908	1,011	1,060	+ 32	+ 5
Second	194	258	240	280	+ 44	+ 17
Third	4,213	5,679	5,802	6,137	+ 46	+ 6
Fourth	1,218	1,412	1,493	1,625	+ 33	+ 9

*SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
FY 84

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	DIVORCE	DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE	RECIPROCAL SUPPORT	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	OTHER	
Anchorage	953	1,701	1,114	1,086	220	5,074
Barrow	4	27	8	47	5	91
Bethel	11	28	29	68	---	136
Fairbanks	294	613	217	345	20	1,489
Juneau	117	181	56	119	17	490
Kenai	67	190	66	91	11	425
Ketchikan	76	113	75	63	5	332
Kodiak	43	71	37	41	4	196
Kotzebue	16	16	28	48	---	108
Nome	20	6	32	23	---	81
Palmer	71	172	86	98	15	442
Sitka	48	44	24	34	2	152
Wrangell/ Petersburg	26	32	11	13	4	86
TOTAL	1,746	3,194	1,783	2,076	303	9,102
% OF TOTAL	19%	35%	20%	23%	3%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	267	370	166	229	28	1,060
Second	40	49	68	118	5	280
Third	1,134	2,134	1,303	1,316	250	6,137
Fourth	305	641	246	413	20	1,625

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
DISPOSITIONS

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	4,044	4,240	4,194	4,233	+ 5	+ 1
Barrow	15	70	44	57	+280	+ 30
Bethel	86	110	154	136	+ 58	- 12
Fairbanks	976	1,110	1,298	1,418	+ 45	+ 9
Juneau	320	371	362	452	+ 41	+ 25
Kenai	275	276	280	346	+ 26	+ 24
Ketchikan	256	362	260	350	+ 37	+ 35
Kodiak	193	129	169	172	- 11	+ 2
Kotzebue	17	76	70	124	+629	+ 77
Nome	105	70	80	99	- 6	+ 24
*Palmer	---	---	210	324	---	+ 54
Sitka	100	126	156	155	+ 55	- 1
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	---	---	37	73	---	+ 97
TOTAL	6,387	6,940	7,314	7,939	+ 24	+ 9

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	676	859	815	1,030	+ 52	+ 26
Second	137	216	194	280	+104	+ 44
Third	4,512	4,645	4,853	5,075	+ 12	+ 5
Fourth	1,062	1,220	1,452	1,554	+ 46	+ 7

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
FILINGS

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	2,156	2,377	2,511	2,892	+ 34	+ 15
Barrow	4	23	35	31	+675	- 11
Bethel	38	37	35	54	+ 42	+ 54
Fairbanks	516	568	656	645	+ 25	- 2
Juneau	203	246	275	336	+ 66	+ 22
Kenai	134	126	203	207	+ 54	+ 2
Ketchikan	82	94	92	147	+ 79	+ 60
Kodiak	72	66	107	88	+ 22	- 18
Kotzebue	29	13	32	76	+162	+138
Nome	60	34	36	50	- 17	+ 39
*Palmer	---	---	92	139	---	+ 51
Sitka	52	45	49	61	+ 17	+ 24
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	---	---	15	22	---	+ 47
TOTAL	3,346	3,629	4,138	4,748	+ 42	+ 15

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	337	385	431	566	+ 68	+ 31
Second	93	70	103	157	+ 69	+ 52
Third	2,362	2,569	2,913	3,326	+ 41	+ 14
Fourth	554	605	691	699	+ 26	+ 1

* SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 84

COURT	CASE TYPE				TOTAL
	CIVIL DAMAGE	ADMINI-STRATIVE REVIEW	GENERAL	OTHER	
Anchorage	872	144	1,095	781	2,892
Barrow	7	---	20	4	31
Bethel	20	2	20	12	54
Fairbanks	120	59	198	268	645
Juneau	60	31	104	141	336
Kenai	48	7	110	42	207
Ketchikan	52	8	73	14	147
Kodiak	14	2	67	5	88
Kotzebue	6	---	26	44	76
Nome	15	1	24	10	50
Palmer	53	8	36	42	139
Sitka	23	---	29	9	61
Wrangell/ Petersburg	15	---	---	7	22
TOTAL	1,305	262	1,802	1,379	4,748
% OF TOTAL	27%	6%	38%	29%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	150	39	206		171	566
Second	28	1	70		58	157
Third	987	161	1,308		870	3,326
Fourth	140	61	218		280	699

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITIONS
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	3,329	2,019	1,745	1,902	- 43	+ 9
Barrow	2	9	12	14	+600	+ 17
Bethel	12	23	40	41	+242	+ 3
Fairbanks	492	567	548	597	+ 21	+ 9
Juneau	151	216	155	244	+ 62	+ 57
Kenai	121	143	136	126	+ 4	- 7
Ketchikan	52	75	82	117	+125	+ 43
Kodiak	74	65	56	74	---	+ 32
Kotzebue	5	18	29	37	+640	+ 28
Nome	74	26	42	62	- 16	+ 48
*Palmer	---	---	37	84	---	+127
Sitka	35	39	43	54	+ 54	+ 26
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	---	---	4	14	---	+250
TOTAL	4,347	3,200	2,929	3,366	- 23	+ 15

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	238	330	284	429	+ 80	+ 51
Second	81	53	83	113	+ 40	+ 36
Third	3,524	2,227	1,974	2,186	- 38	+ 11
Fourth	504	590	588	638	+ 27	+ 9

*SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
FILINGS

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	445	524	593	637	+ 43	+ 7
Barrow	24	23	20	22	- 8	+ 10
Bethel	65	67	85	104	+ 60	+ 22
Fairbanks	283	206	237	534**	+ 89	+125
Juneau	77	66	51	73	- 5	+ 43
Kenai	110	81	81	129	+ 17	+ 59
Ketchikan	153	129	163	158	+ 3	+ 3
Kodiak	19	32	16	37	+ 95	+131
Kotzebue	32	51	43	60	+ 88	+ 40
Nome	70	40	93	43	- 39	- 54
*Palmer	---	---	25	71	---	+184
Sitka	36	51	65	76	+111	+ 17
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	---	---	25	40	---	+ 60
TOTAL	1,314	1,270	1,497	1,984	+ 51	+ 33

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	266	246	304	347	+ 30	+ 14
Second	126	114	156	125	- 1	- 20
Third	574	637	715	874	+ 52	+ 22
Fourth	348	273	322	638	- 83	+ 98

*SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED 7/1/82
**STATISTICS INACCURATELY REPORTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
DISPOSITIONS

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	379	418	443	463	+ 22	+ 5
Barrow	11	2	---	94	+755	---
Bethel	75	73	94	95	+ 27	+ 1
Fairbanks	224	87	39	84	- 62	+115
Juneau	59	37	38	23	- 61	- 39
Kenai	102	84	85	127	+ 25	+ 49
Ketchikan	100	73	23	78	- 22	+239
Kodiak	24	25	14	33	+ 38	+136
Kotzebue	29	47	42	62	+114	+ 48
Nome	35	50	68	52	+ 49	- 24
*Palmer	---	---	20	58	---	+190
Sitka	14	16	19	66	+371	+247
*Wrangell/ Petersburg	---	---	9	23	---	+156
TOTAL	1,052	912	894	1,258	+ 20	+ 41

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	173	126	89	190	+ 10	+113
Second	75	99	110	208	+177	+ 89
Third	505	527	562	681	+ 35	+ 21
Fourth	299	160	133	179	- 40	+ 35

*SUPERIOR COURTS CREATED7/1/82

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
FORMAL DISPOSITIONS

FY 84

COURT	PROBATION	INSTITUTION-ALIZED	TERMINATION PARENTAL RIGHTS	DISMISSED	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	275	100	1	15	72	463
Barrow	1	---	-	9	84	94
Bethel	21	16	-	38	20	95
Fairbanks	unknown					84*
Juneau	--	1	-	17	5	23
Kenai	77	28	3	17	2	127
Ketchikan	7	3	-	41	27	78
Kodiak	12	2	-	5	14	33
Kotzebue	10	9	-	11	32	62
Nome	5	4	-	12	31	52
Palmer	38	7	-	1	12	58
Sitka	12	7	-	28	19	66
Wrangell/ Petersburg	2	4	-	11	6	23
TOTAL	460	181	4	205	324	1,174 *

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	21	15	-	97	57	190
Second	16	13	-	32	147	208
Third	402	137	4	38	100	681
Fourth	21	16	-	38	20	* 95

* NOT INCLUDING FAIRBANKS DISPOS

District

DISTRICT COURT
(Higher Volume)

DISTRICT COURTS-HIGHER VOLUME CASELOAD FY 84

District court statistics are maintained separately for high and low volume courts. There are 22 higher volume courts (including all district court/magistrate sites located with a superior court). There are 37 magistrates in lower volume courts.

Total filings in higher volume district courts increased by 6% over FY 83 levels. Total dispositions increased by 3%.

Although 70% of all district court case filings are traffic citations, they represent a small portion of the workload. Far more clerical and judicial resources are required to process a misdemeanor, small claims or other civil case than to process the average traffic ticket. Non-traffic filings in higher volume district courts increased 6% over FY 83 levels. Dispositions in non-traffic matters decreased by 3%. Traffic ticket dispositions increased by 6% over FY 83.

FELONY CASES

Felony case filings in higher volume district courts decreased by 11% in FY 84. The lower percentage increase in felony filings this year in district courts (+11%) than in superior courts (+15%) is probably indicative of prosecutors using the direct indictment more frequently than in FY 83. Over half (55%) of all felony filings in higher volume district courts had a primary charge involving either violence or drugs.

MISDEMEANOR CASES

Misdemeanor case filings increased 7% over FY 83 levels while dispositions decreased by 4% from FY 83.

Traffic related offenses are the largest category of misdemeanor case filings (44%). These offenses include driving while intoxicated (DWI), reckless/negligent driving, drivving on a revoked/suspended license, and several accident related traffic offenses. Approximately 64% of this category consists of DWI cases. Of the 7% overall increase in misdemeanors filed in the higher volume district courts during FY 84, 71% of this increase was due to increases in DWI filings.

SMALL CLAIMS CASES

Statewide filings of small claims cases in higher volume district courts increased by 8% in FY 84. Twelve higher volume courts reported significant (+10% or larger) increases in small claims filings during FY 84 while 7 reported significant decreases. Dispositions of small claims cases in these courts increased by 16% over FY 83 levels.

OTHER CIVIL FILINGS

Other civil case filings (civil damages, debts, contracts and notes) increased by 8% in FY 84. About 1/3 of these courts reported a significant (+10% or larger) increase in filings, 1/3 reported significant decreases and the remaining 1/3 reported little change from FY 83.

Dispositions of other civil cases in these courts decreased 24% from FY 83, primarily due to a 35% decrease in Anchorage. When Anchorage figures are omitted, the statewide percentage change in other civil case dispositions averages -3%.

TRAFFIC CASES

Because traffic citation cases are not reported to the administrative office until final disposition, filings for traffic matters understate the actual workload. Wherever filing data is required to assess the overall workload of the courts, traffic disposition data have been substituted for traffic filing data in all tables and charts in this report.

Traffic disposition data are taken from automated files maintained by the Department of Public Safety. Court system personnel enter traffic citation disposition data into these files. In May 1984 the Department of Public Safety converted to the APSIN system (Alaska Pacific Safety Information Network). During the conversion, some traffic records were destroyed or not converted. Many traffic citations entered by courts were not recorded as disposed traffic cases, because of new coding conventions applied by the Department of Safety. At the time of conversion, the court system ran its retrieval program against the DMV system as it existed on May 8, 1984. When these numbered were compared with data retrieved from APSIN as of July 1, 1984, the problems became evident. For example, on the May 8 tape, Anchorage had already processed 40,022 traffic citations during FY 84. The annual data produced from APSIN three months later indicated that Anchorage had processed only 30,925 cases during the entire fiscal year. Fairbanks showed 11,074 on May 8 and 10,153 at year end. Because of these problems in the APSIN system, this report projects FY 84 traffic dispositions for both Anchorage and Fairbanks based on data available as of May 8, 1984.

Traffic citation dispositions increased by 6% during FY 84 in these higher volume district courts.

CHILDREN'S MATTERS

Although children's matters are normally within the jurisdiction of superior courts, some district court magistrates are empowered to act as standing masters for children's proceedings with the concurrence of the parties. In addition, some children's proceedings are filed in rural district courts and then heard by a superior court judge who travels to that site. In the past, the administrative office has not collected information on these cases. In FY 84 the office began collecting information on children's matters that were filed and handled within district court by a local magistrate or a visiting superior court judge. There were 49 such cases filed and 54 cases disposed of in higher volume district courts during FY 84.

DISTRICT COURTS
FILINGS

FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	* FY 81	* FY 82	* FY 83	* FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	62,309	58,363	65,272	71,119	+ 14	+ 9
Barrow	302	608	369	527	+ 75	+ 43
Bethel	1,329	1,259	1,250	1,202	- 10	- 4
Cordova	673	697	770	572	- 15	- 26
Dillingham	819	500	412	633	- 23	+ 54
Fairbanks	14,489	18,825	21,668	20,552	+ 42	- 5
Glennallen	1,299	894	700	731	- 44	+ 4
Homer	3,378	2,352	2,782	2,492	- 26	- 10
Juneau	16,602	8,142	5,102	6,229	- 62	+ 22
Kenai	7,778	5,937	7,090	8,065	+ 4	+ 14
Ketchikan	3,621	3,166	3,443	4,395	+ 21	+ 28
Kodiak	3,982	2,955	3,307	3,222	- 19	- 3
Kotzebue	709	795	1,003	1,068	+ 51	+ 6
Nome	940	769	712	684	- 27	- 4
Palmer	6,545	5,473	7,298	7,609	+ 16	+ 4
Petersburg	600	319	545	551	- 8	+ 1
Seward	2,690	1,863	2,622	2,321	- 14	- 11
Sitka	2,086	2,005	2,337	2,426	+ 16	+ 4
Tok	1,147	789	795	1,050	- 8	+ 32
Unalaska	596	517	470	377	- 37	- 20
Valdez	1,214	997	1,034	934	- 23	- 10
Wrangell	1,156	728	501	705	- 39	+ 41
TOTAL	133,364	117,953	129,432	137,464	+ 3	+ 6

*TRAFFIC DISPOSITION USED AS FILINGS

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

First	24,065	14,360	11,928	14,306	- 41	+ 20
Second	1,951	2,172	2,084	2,279	+ 17	+ 9
Third	90,383	80,548	91,757	98,075	+ 9	+ 7
Fourth	16,965	20,873	23,713	22,804	+ 34	- 4

DISTRICT COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 84

COURT	CRIMINAL		OTHER		CIVIL		TOTAL
	FELONY	MISDEMEANOR	** TRAFFIC	CHILDRENS MATTERS	SMALL CLAIMS	OTHER CIVIL	
Anchorage*	710	8,679	53,363		5,041	3,326	71,119
Barrow*	53	354	20		74	26	527
Bethel*	39	544	466		134	19	1,202
Cordova	20	241	125		105	81	572
Dillingham	19	260	222	10	45	77	633
Fairbanks*	304	4,062	14,766		946	474	20,552
Glennallen	7	164	282	4	253	21	731
Homer	44	503	1,434		312	199	2,492
Juneau*	144	2,125	2,574		1,159	227	6,229
Kenai*	72	2,315	5,218		426	34	8,065
Ketchikan*	86	1,269	2,564		417	59	4,395
Kodiak*	81	880	1,999		222	40	3,222
Kotzebue*	73	666	109		219	1	1,068
Nome*	57	363	140		108	16	684
Palmer*	131	1,808	4,970		651	49	7,609
Petersburg*	11	183	244		109	4	551
Seward	33	349	1,842	4	68	25	2,321
Sitka*	24	790	1,416	--	152	44	2,426
Tok	26	226	759	12	22	5	1,050
Unalaska	14	171	89	8	48	47	377
Valdez	39	306	355	11	101	122	934
Wrangell*	6	305	265		123	6	705
TOTAL	1,993	26,563	93,222	49	10,735	4,902	137,464
% OF TOTAL	1%	19%	68%	.03%	8%	4%	100%

*Children's Matters reported in Superior Court

** Traffic Dispositions

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	271	4,672	7,063	--	1,960	340	14,306
Second	183	1,383	269	--	401	43	2,279
Third	1,170	15,676	69,899	37	7,272	4,021	98,075
Fourth	369	4,832	15,991	12	1,102	498	22,804

DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITIONS
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	62,675	54,062	64,434	67,468	+ 8	+ 5
Barrow	229	564	387	457	+99	+18
Bethel	1,186	1,145	1,302	1,154	- 3	-11
Cordova	663	643	646	564	-15	-13
Dillingham	726	442	460	666	- 8	+45
Fairbanks	13,667	18,198	21,734	20,107	+47	- 7
Glennallen	1,275	803	739	576	-55	-22
Homer	3,380	2,150	2,659	2,361	-30	-11
Juneau	15,840	7,971	4,522	5,759	-64	+27
Kenai	7,449	5,604	6,894	7,712	+ 4	+12
Ketchikan	3,484	3,071	3,179	4,305	+24	+35
Kodiak	2,864	2,894	3,120	3,219	+12	+ 3
Kotzebue	624	705	1,055	992	+59	- 6
Nome	852	811	715	706	-17	- 1
Palmer	6,085	4,991	7,241	7,019	+15	- 3
Petersburg	571	323	420	512	-10	+22
Seward	2,645	1,807	2,592	2,232	-16	-14
Sitka	1,865	1,904	2,377	2,474	+33	+ 4
Tok	1,104	802	757	1,045	- 5	+38
Unalaska	451	497	397	421	- 7	+ 6
Valdez	1,158	958	947	878	-24	- 7
Wrangell	1,088	684	522	678	-38	+30
TOTAL	129,881	111,029	127,099	131,305	+ 1	+ 3

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	22,848	13,953	11,020	13,728	-40	+25
Second	1,705	2,080	2,157	2,155	+26	- 1
Third	89,371	74,851	90,129	93,116	+ 4	+ 3
Fourth	15,957	20,145	23,793	22,306	+40	- 6

DISTRICT COURTS
FILINGS
NON-TRAFFIC
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	15,247	16,643	16,464	17,756	+ 16	+ 8
Barrow	290	605	345	507	+ 75	+47
Bethel	1,030	1,026	760	736	- 29	- 3
Cordova	355	448	569	447	+ 26	-22
Dillingham	699	462	347	411	- 41	+18
Fairbanks	4,305	5,590	5,776	5,786	+ 34	--
Glennallen	365	420	390	449	+ 23	+15
Homer	747	973	1,155	1,058	+ 42	- 8
Juneau	2,795	3,280	3,387	3,655	+ 31	+ 8
Kenai	1,745	1,831	2,280	2,847	+ 63	+25
Ketchikan	1,709	1,715	1,681	1,831	+ 7	+ 9
Kodiak	1,326	1,400	1,542	1,223	- 8	-21
Kotzebue	665	793	784	959	+ 44	+22
Nome	623	558	509	544	- 13	+ 7
Palmer	2,075	2,388	2,128	2,639	+ 27	+24
Petersburg	336	151	317	307	- 9	- 3
Seward	332	462	647	479	+ 44	-26
Sitka	1,099	1,028	934	1,010	- 8	+ 8
Tok	130	96	239	291	+124	+22
Unalaska	475	351	376	288	- 40	-24
Valdez	518	428	521	579	+ 12	+11
Wrangell	381	443	339	440	+ 14	+28
TOTAL	37,247	41,091	41,490	44,242	+ 19	+ 6

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	6,320	6,617	6,658	7,243	+ 15	+ 9
Second	998	1,956	1,638	2,010	+101	+23
Third	23,884	25,806	26,419	28,176	+ 18	+ 7
Fourth	5,465	6,712	6,775	6,813	+ 25	+ 1

DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITIONS
NON-TRAFFIC
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	15,613	12,342	15,626	14,105	- 10	- 10
Barrow	217	561	363	437	+101	+ 20
Bethel	887	912	812	688	- 22	- 15
Cordova	345	394	445	439	+ 27	- 1
Dillingham	606	404	395	444	- 27	+ 12
Fairbanks	3,483	4,963	5,842	5,341	+ 53	- 9
Glennallen	341	329	429	294	- 14	- 31
Homer	749	771	1,032	927	+ 24	- 10
Juneau	2,033	3,109	2,807	3,185	+ 57	+ 13
Kenai	1,416	1,498	2,084	2,494	+ 76	+ 20
Ketchikan	1,572	1,620	1,417	1,741	+ 11	+ 23
Kodiak	1,108	1,339	1,355	1,220	+ 10	- 10
Kotzebue	580	703	836	883	+ 52	+ 5
Nome	535	600	512	566	+ 6	+ 11
Palmer	1,615	1,906	2,071	2,049	+ 27	- 1
Petersburg	307	155	192	268	- 13	+ 40
Seward	287	406	617	390	+ 36	- 37
Sitka	878	927	974	1,058	+ 21	+ 9
Tok	87	109	201	286	+229	+ 42
Unalaska	330	331	303	332	+ 1	+ 10
Valdez	462	389	434	523	+ 13	+ 21
Wrangell	313	399	360	413	+ 32	+ 15
TOTAL	33,764	34,167	39,107	38,083	+ 13	- 3

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	5,103	6,210	5,750	6,665	+ 31	+ 16
Second	1,332	1,864	1,711	1,886	+ 41	+ 10
Third	22,872	20,109	24,791	23,217	+ 1	- 6
Fourth	4,457	5,984	6,855	6,315	+ 42	- 8

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
FILINGS
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	636	634	829	710	+ 12	- 14
Barrow	53	62	12	53	---	+342
Bethel	155	124	109	39	- 75	- 64
Cordova	11	34	34	20	+ 82	- 41
Dillingham	36	33	16	19	- 47	+ 19
Fairbanks	257	246	281	304	+ 18	+ 8
Glennallen	14	12	15	7	- 50	- 53
Homer	20	17	21	44	+120	+110
Juneau	98	129	135	144	+ 47	+ 7
Kenai	58	79	77	72	- 57	- 6
Ketchikan	106	149	149	86	- 19	- 43
Kodiak	134	99	116	81	- 40	- 30
Kotzebue	49	31	54	73	+ 49	+ 35
Nome	43	17	41	57	+ 33	+ 39
Palmer	68	79	170	131	+ 93	- 23
Petersburg	19	10	17	11	- 42	- 35
Seward	44	27	43	33	- 25	- 23
Sitka	57	58	35	24	- 58	- 31
Tok	15	9	25	26	+ 73	+ 4
Unalaska	48	24	24	14	- 71	- 42
Valdez	23	11	31	39	+ 70	+ 26
Wrangell	12	28	10	6	- 50	- 40
TOTAL	1,956	1,912	2,244	1,993	+ 2	- 11

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	292	374	346	271	- 7	- 22
Second	145	110	107	183	+ 26	+ 71
Third	1,092	1,049	1,376	1,170	+ 7	- 15
Fourth	427	379	415	369	- 14	- 11

DISTRICT COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FELONY FILINGS

FY 84

COURT	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	FRAUD/ FORGERY	DRUGS	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	245	309	36	100	20	710
Barrow	31	13	1	4	4	53
Bethel	29	3	1	1	5	39
Cordova	--	3	--	14	3	20
Dillingham	8	9	--	2	--	19
Fairbanks	117	106	15	34	32	304
Glennallen	3	4	--	--	--	7
Homer	13	6	1	22	2	44
Juneau	46	27	7	53	11	144
Kenai	20	37	3	10	2	72
Ketchikan	38	16	7	12	13	86
Kodiak	34	12	5	27	3	81
Kotzebue	40	21	4	--	8	73
Nome	36	15	--	6	--	57
Palmer	49	50	4	23	5	131
Petersburg	4	2	1	3	1	11
Seward	12	5	--	9	7	33
Sitka	10	7	2	4	1	24
Tok	6	7	--	--	13	26
Unalaska	9	3	--	1	1	14
Valdez	11	15	--	13	--	39
Wrangell	2	2	1	1	--	6
TOTAL	763	672	88	339	131	1,993
% OF TOTAL	38%	34%	4%	17%	7%	100%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	100	54	18	73	26	271
Second	107	49	5	10	12	183
Third	404	453	49	221	43	1,170
Fourth	152	116	16	35	50	369

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
DISPOSITIONS
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	418	569	767	640	+ 53	- 17
Barrow	24	57	20	47	+ 96	+135
Bethel	96	123	110	27	- 72	- 75
Cordova	9	27	27	27	+200	---
Dillingham	26	32	22	16	- 38	- 27
Fairbanks	149	211	288	273	+ 83	- 5
Glennallen	13	11	14	5	- 62	- 64
Homer	16	16	19	39	+144	+105
Juneau	59	117	103	75	+ 27	- 27
Kenai	36	75	73	70	+ 94	- 4
Ketchikan	103	107	130	52	+ 50	- 60
Kodiak	74	96	90	95	+ 28	+ 6
Kotzebue	21	22	50	66	+214	+ 32
Nome	33	16	43	62	+ 88	+ 48
Palmer	46	82	103	103	+124	---
Petersburg	18	11	9	11	- 39	+ 22
Seward	39	21	33	34	- 13	+ 3
Sitka	43	48	32	19	- 56	- 41
Tok	8	10	22	26	+225	+ 18
Unalaska	40	29	19	14	- 65	- 26
Valdez	16	14	27	32	+100	+ 19
Wrangell	7	22	15	1	- 86	- 93
TOTAL	1,294	1,716	2,016	1,734	+ 34	- 14

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	230	305	289	158	- 31	- 45
Second	78	95	113	175	+124	+ 55
Third	733	972	1,194	1,075	+ 47	- 10
Fourth	253	344	420	326	+ 29	- 22

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
FILINGS
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	7,289	7,847	7,886	8,679	+ 19	+ 10
Barrow	214	425	277	354	+ 65	+ 28
Bethel	701	565	489	544	- 22	+ 11
Cordova	231	297	313	241	+ 4	- 23
Dillingham	445	315	247	260	- 42	+ 5
Fairbanks	2,634	4,025	4,259	4,062	+ 54	- 5
Glennallen	157	163	176	164	+ 4	- 7
Homer	409	533	553	503	+ 23	- 9
Juneau	1,349	1,654	1,830	2,125	+ 57	+ 16
Kenai	1,149	1,268	1,797	2,315	+101	+ 29
Ketchikan	1,357	1,189	1,093	1,269	- 6	+ 16
Kodiak	902	1,011	1,233	880	- 2	- 29
Kotzebue	515	640	685	666	+ 29	- 3
Nome	476	443	394	363	- 24	- 8
Palmer	766	1,059	1,313	1,808	+136	+ 38
Petersburg	250	115	207	183	- 27	- 12
Seward	233	317	408	349	+ 50	- 14
Sitka	757	686	629	790	+ 4	+ 26
Tok	87	70	186	226	+160	+ 22
Unalaska	344	233	226	171	- 51	- 25
Valdez	194	196	215	306	+ 58	+ 42
Wrangell	285	306	282	305	+ 7	+ 8
TOTAL	20,744	23,357	24,698	26,563	+ 28	+ 7

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	3,998	3,950	4,041	4,672	+ 16	+ 15
Second	1,205	1,508	1,356	1,383	+ 15	+ 2
Third	12,119	13,239	14,367	15,676	+ 29	+ 9
Fourth	3,422	4,660	4,934	4,832	+ 41	- 2

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
COMPOSITION OF FY FILINGS
84

COURT	VIOLENCE	THEFT/FRAUD	ENVIRONMENTAL	NUISANCE	ALCOHOL/DRUGS	RESISTING THE LAW	VICE	TRAFFIC	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	1165	1264	84	830	175	195	325	4471	170	8679
Barrow	106	23	8	41	88	---	---	80	8	354
Bethel	190	21	35	93	45	6	---	111	43	544
Cordova	29	2	81	16	16	4	---	84	9	241
Dillingham	47	16	53	36	27	2	---	74	5	260
Fairbanks	453	571	153	480	407	43	---	1804	151	4062
Glennallen	34	18	22	17	14	---	---	57	2	164
Homer	62	26	39	26	39	21	---	272	18	503
Juneau	325	94	89	301	270	60	---	953	33	2125
Kenai	189	112	556	105	103	40	---	1151	59	2315
Ketchikan	167	87	149	225	102	20	---	489	30	1269
Kodiak	95	60	254	123	75	11	---	250	12	880
Kotzebue	155	31	15	108	168	7	---	105	77	666
Nome	79	57	11	53	99	4	---	57	3	363
Palmer	168	78	379	53	64	26	---	1022	18	1808
Petersburg	27	12	53	17	19	5	---	49	2	183
Seward	54	15	39	19	26	2	---	190	4	349
Sitka	57	95	81	68	70	2	---	220	197	790
Tok	52	14	23	19	13	10	---	93	2	226
Unalaska	44	4	32	35	10	3	---	41	2	171
Valdez	64	16	33	36	26	2	---	122	7	306
Wrangell	28	9	100	25	30	5	---	82	26	305
TOTAL	3590	2625	2289	2726	1886	468	325	11776	878	26563
% OF TOTAL	14	10	9	10	7	2	1	44	3	100

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	604	297	472	636	491	92	---	1792	285	4672
Second	340	111	34	202	355	11	---	242	88	1383
Third	1951	1611	1572	1296	575	306	325	7734	306	15676
Fourth	695	606	211	592	465	59	---	2008	196	4832

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
DISPOSITIONS
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	5,873	7,593	8,518	7,228	+ 23	- 15
Barrow	170	377	298	357	+110	+ 20
Bethel	629	535	501	526	- 16	+ 5
Cordova	211	272	301	261	+ 24	- 13
Dillingham	407	281	257	281	- 31	+ 9
Fairbanks	2,178	3,548	4,289	3,738	+ 72	- 13
Glennallen	153	123	201	107	- 30	- 47
Homer	381	417	566	428	+ 12	- 24
Juneau	974	1,614	1,676	1,920	+ 97	+ 14
Kenai	990	763	1,738	2,131	+113	+ 23
Ketchikan	1,230	1,134	1,016	1,137	- 8	+ 12
Kodiak	780	1,052	1,123	937	+ 20	- 17
Kotzebue	475	607	666	696	+ 46	+ 4
Nome	431	406	413	399	- 7	- 3
Palmer	673	852	1,205	1,512	+125	+ 25
Petersburg	238	132	158	185	- 22	+ 17
Seward	218	280	419	301	+ 38	- 28
Sitka	624	677	657	765	+ 23	+ 16
Tok	61	84	156	212	+248	+ 36
Unalaska	254	244	170	201	- 21	+ 18
Valdez	181	175	225	270	+ 49	+ 20
Wrangell	249	291	291	300	+ 20	+ 3
TOTAL	17,379	21,457	24,844	23,892	+ 37	- 4

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	3,315	3,848	3,798	4,307	+ 30	+ 13
Second	1,076	1,390	1,377	1,452	+ 35	+ 5
Third	10,120	12,052	14,723	13,657	+ 35	- 7
Fourth	2,868	4,167	4,946	4,476	+ 55	- 10

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES
FILINGS
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	4,393	5,306	4,918	5,041	+ 15	+ 3
Barrow	18	104	43	74	+311	+ 72
Bethel	160	321	154	134	- 16	- 13
Cordova	53	63	83	105	+ 98	+ 27
Dillingham	206	72	57	45	- 78	- 21
Fairbanks	930	767	777	946	+ 2	+ 22
Glennallen	181	224	174	253	+ 40	+ 45
Homer	160	201	391	312	+ 95	- 20
Juneau	1,071	1,273	1,133	1,159	+ 8	+ 2
Kenai	455	405	308	426	- 6	+ 38
Ketchikan	182	328	311	417	+129	+ 34
Kodiak	213	240	156	222	+ 4	+ 42
Kotzebue	100	119	43	219	+119	+409
Nome	93	81	67	108	+ 16	+ 61
Palmer	931	841	578	651	- 30	+ 13
Petersburg	59	19	90	109	+ 85	+ 21
Seward	43	80	162	68	+ 58	- 58
Sitka	245	241	226	152	- 38	- 33
Tok	16	10	21	22	+ 38	+ 5
Unalaska	31	34	59	48	+ 55	- 19
Valdez	139	118	172	101	- 27	- 41
Wrangell	70	75	46	123	+ 76	+167
TOTAL	9,749	10,922	9,969	10,735	+ 10	+ 8

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	1,627	1,936	1,806	1,960	+ 20	+ 9
Second	211	304	153	401	+ 90	+162
Third	6,805	7,584	7,058	7,272	+ 7	+ 3
Fourth	1,106	1,098	952	1,102	---	+ 16

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES
DISPOSITIONS
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	6,674	2,392	3,358	4,296	- 36	+ 28
Barrow	21	117	33	21	---	- 36
Bethel	153	236	194	122	- 20	- 37
Cordova	76	56	48	98	+ 29	+104
Dillingham	170	77	74	60	- 65	- 19
Fairbanks	642	712	768	855	+ 33	+ 11
Glennallen	164	179	196	158	- 4	- 19
Homer	187	177	302	293	+ 57	- 3
Juneau	810	1,141	839	1,003	+ 24	+ 20
Kenai	324	585	212	268	- 17	+ 26
Ketchikan	183	338	181	441	+141	+144
Kodiak	199	148	117	162	- 19	+ 38
Kotzebue	84	74	118	118	+ 40	---
Nome	62	168	50	91	+ 47	+ 82
Palmer	690	678	709	410	- 41	- 42
Petersburg	48	11	25	69	+ 44	+176
Seward	22	73	138	34	+ 55	- 75
Sitka	176	170	234	234	+ 33	---
Tok	16	8	16	28	+ 75	+ 75
Unalaska	11	25	28	60	+445	+114
Valdez	144	114	95	112	- 22	+ 18
Wrangell	46	75	52	107	+133	+106
TOTAL	10,902	7,554	7,787	9,040	- 17	+ 16

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	1,263	1,735	1,331	1,854	+ 47	+ 39
Second	167	359	201	230	+ 38	+ 14
Third	8,661	4,504	5,277	5,951	- 31	+ 13
Fourth	811	956	978	1,005	+ 24	+ 3

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
FILINGS
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE	
					FY 81 to FY 84	FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	2,929	2,856	2,831	3,326	+ 14	+ 17
Barrow	5	14	13	26	+420	+100
Bethel	14	16	8	19	+ 36	+138
Cordova	60	54	90	81	+ 35	- 10
Dillingham	12	42	27	77	+542	+185
Fairbanks	484	552	459	474	- 2	+ 3
Glennallen	13	21	25	21	+ 62	- 16
Homer	158	222	190	199	+ 26	+ 5
Juneau	277	224	289	227	- 18	- 21
Kenai	83	79	98	34	- 59	- 65
Ketchikan	64	49	128	59	- 8	- 54
Kodiak	77	50	37	40	- 48	+ 8
Kotzebue	1	3	2	1	---	- 50
Nome	11	17	7	16	+ 45	+129
*Palmer	310	409	67	49	- 84	- 27
*Petersburg	8	7	3	4	- 50	+ 33
Seward	12	38	34	25	+108	- 26
Sitka	40	43	44	44	+ 10	---
Tok	12	7	7	5	- 58	- 29
Unalaska	52	60	67	47	- 10	- 30
Valdez	162	103	103	122	- 25	+ 18
*Wrangell	14	34	1	6	- 57	+500
TOTAL	4,798	4,900	4,530	4,902	+ 2	+ 8

*Became Superior Courts 7/1/82

Civil Damage, Admin. Reveiw, General Civil, S. C. Civil Matters Not Recorded On S. C. Charts

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

First	403	357	465	340	- 16	- 27
Second	17	34	22	43	+153	+ 95
Third	3,868	3,934	3,569	4,021	+ 4	+ 13
Fourth	510	575	474	498	- 2	+ 5

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 84

COURT	CIVIL DAMAGE	GENERAL	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	460	1,810	1,056	3,326
Barrow	12	13	1	26
Bethel	5	14	---	19
Cordova	12	4	65	81
Dillingham	3	5	69	77
Fairbanks	29	395	50	474
Glennallen	---	---	21	21
Homer	19	12	168	199
Juneau	7	184	36	227
Kenai	3	26	5	34
Ketchikan	3	45	11	59
Kodiak	4	27	9	40
Kotzebue	---	---	1	1
Nome	1	5	10	16
Palmer	8	4	37	49
Petersburg	1	2	1	4
Seward	---	3	22	25
Sitka	5	27	12	44
Tok	1	---	4	5
Unalaska	---	---	47	47
Valdez	1	7	114	122
Wrangell	6	---	---	6
TOTAL	580	2,583	1,739	4,902
% OF TOTAL	12%	53%	35%	100%

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	22	258	60	340
Second	13	18	12	43
Third	510	1,898	1,613	4,021
Fourth	35	409	54	498

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITIONS
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	2,649	1,788	2,983	1,941	- 27	- 35
Barrow	2	10	12	12	+ 500	---
Bethel	9	18	7	13	+ 44	+ 86
Cordova	49	39	69	53	+ 8	- 23
Dillingham	3	14	42	74	+2,367	+ 76
Fairbanks	514	492	497	475	- 8	- 4
Glennallen	11	16	18	16	+ 45	- 11
Homer	165	161	145	167	+ 1	+ 15
Juneau	190	237	189	187	- 2	- 1
Kenai	66	75	61	44	- 33	- 28
Ketchikan	56	41	90	111	+ 98	+ 23
Kodiak	55	43	25	26	- 53	+ 4
Kotzebue	---	---	2	3	---	+ 50
Nome	9	10	6	14	+ 56	+133
*Palmer	206	294	54	24	- 88	- 56
*Petersburg	3	1	---	3	---	---
Seward	8	32	27	17	+ 113	- 37
Sitka	35	32	51	40	+ 14	- 22
Tok	2	7	7	5	+ 150	- 29
Unalaska	25	33	86	45	+ 80	- 48
Valdez	121	86	87	107	- 12	+ 23
*Wrangell	11	11	2	5	- 55	+150
TOTAL	4,189	3,440	4,460	3,382	- 19	- 24

* Became Superior Courts 7/1/82

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

First	295	322	332	346	+ 17	+ 3
Second	11	20	20	29	+ 164	+ 45
Third	3,358	2,581	3,597	2,514	- 25	- 30
Fourth	525	517	511	493	- 6	- 4

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
DISPOSITIONS
FY 81 - FY 84

COURT	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	% INCREASE FY 81 to FY 84	% INCREASE FY 83 to FY 84
Anchorage	47,062	41,720	48,808	53,363	+ 13	+ 9
Barrow	12	3	24	20	+ 67	- 17
Bethel	299	233	490	466	+ 56	- 5
Cordova	318	249	201	125	- 61	- 38
Dillingham	120	38	65	222	+ 85	+242
Fairbanks	10,184	13,235	15,892	14,766	+ 45	- 7
Glennallen	934	474	310	282	- 70	- 9
Homer	2,631	1,379	1,627	1,434	- 45	- 12
*Juneau	13,807	4,862	1,715	2,574	- 81	+ 50
Kenai	6,033	4,106	4,810	5,218	- 14	+ 8
Ketchikan	1,912	1,451	1,762	2,564	+ 34	+ 46
Kodiak	1,756	1,555	1,765	1,999	+ 14	+ 13
Kotzebue	44	2	219	109	+148	- 50
Nome	317	211	203	140	- 56	- 31
Palmer	4,470	3,085	5,170	4,970	+ 11	- 4
Petersburg	264	168	228	244	- 8	+ 7
Seward	2,358	1,401	1,975	1,842	- 22	- 7
Sitka	987	977	1,403	1,416	+ 43	+ 1
Tok	1,017	693	556	759	- 25	+ 37
Unalaska	121	166	94	89	- 26	- 5
Valdez	696	569	513	355	- 49	- 31
Wrangell	775	285	162	265	- 66	+ 64
TOTAL	96,117	76,862	87,992	93,222	- 3	+ 6

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 - JUNE 30

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

* No longer entering parking tickets

First	17,745	7,743	5,270	7,063	- 60	+ 34
Second	373	216	446	269	- 28	- 40
Third	66,499	54,742	65,338	69,899	+ 5	+ 7
Fourth	11,500	14,161	16,938	15,991	+ 39	- 6

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
COMPOSITION OF DISPOSITIONS
FY 84

COURT	EQUIPMENT	SPEEDING	SIGNS/ CONTROL DEVICES	OTHER MOVING	LICENSE RESTRICTION	REGISTRATION/ TITLE	OTHER	TOTAL	*UNKNOWN
Anchorage	4,743	15,027	8,724	8,248	2,791	7,793	6,037	53,363	--
Barrow	--	1	--	--	4	--	15	20	--
Bethel	25	43	50	31	58	53	30	466	176
Cordova	9	44	14	4	7	16	10	125	21
Dillingham	5	1	21	9	8	19	44	222	115
Fairbanks	677	6,399	1,905	1,239	1,115	1,566	1,864	14,766	1
Glennallen	5	164	4	3	10	4	38	282	54
Homer	132	508	32	84	92	152	149	1,434	285
Juneau	113	721	275	203	287	507	271	2,574	197
Kenai	177	2,584	177	223	77	685	651	5,218	644
Ketchikan	183	886	95	185	243	412	173	2,564	387
Kodiak	60	343	123	51	246	387	146	1,999	643
Kotzebue	--	19	6	5	10	2	16	109	51
Nome	1	15	24	10	19	10	18	140	43
Palmer	173	2,451	308	390	149	436	249	4,970	814
Petersburg	6	128	9	13	15	7	12	244	54
Seward	25	999	28	59	48	58	64	1,842	561
Sitka	220	301	54	82	189	260	83	1,416	227
Tok	23	319	7	16	48	69	85	759	192
Unalaska	2	12	15	3	7	6	1	89	43
Valdez	28	105	21	24	16	36	21	355	104
Wrangell	16	85	19	15	35	15	23	265	57
TOTAL	6,623	31,155	11,911	10,897	5,474	12,493	10,000	93,222	4,669
% OF TOTAL	7	34	12	11	6	13	10	100	7

*Tickets counted manually-unable to enter in computer-required license search

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	538	2,121	452	498	769	1,201	562	7,063	922
Second	1	35	30	15	33	12	49	269	94
Third	5,359	22,238	9,467	9,098	3,451	9,592	7,410	69,899	3,284
Fourth	725	6,761	1,962	1,286	1,221	1,688	1,979	15,991	369

DISTRICT COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
FILINGS

FY 84

COURT				**FY 84	% INCREASE	
Anchorage*				--		
Barrow*				--		
Bethel*				--		
Cordova				--		
Dillingham				10		
Fairbanks*				--		
Glennallen				4		
Homer				--		
Juneau*				--		
Kenai*				--		
Ketchikan*				--		
Kodiak*				--		
Kotzebue*				--		
Nome*				--		
Palmer				--		
Petersburg*				--		
Seward				4		
Sitka*				--		
Tok				12		
Unalaska				8		
Valdez				11		
Wrangell*				--		
TOTAL				49		

*Children's Matters reported in Superior Court

**This is the first year these statistics have been reported.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First				--		
Second				--		
Third				37		
Fourth				12		

DISTRICT COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
DISPOSITIONS

FY 84

COURT				** FY 84	% INCREASE	
Anchorage*				--		
Barrow*				--		
Bethel*				--		
Cordova				--		
Dillingham				13		
Fairbanks*				--		
Glennallen				8		
Homer				--		
Juneau*				--		
Kenai*				--		
Ketchikan*				--		
Kodiak*				--		
Kotzebue*				--		
Nome*				--		
Palmer*				--		
Petersburg*				--		
Seward				4		
Sitka*				--		
Tok				15		
Unalaska				12		
Valdez				2		
Wrangell*				--		
TOTAL				54		

*Children's Matters reported in Superior Court

** This is the first year these statistics have been reported.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First				--		
Second				--		
Third				39		
Fourth				15		

DISTRICT COURT
(Lower Volume)

DISTRICT COURTS-LOWER VOLUME CASELOAD FY 84

Alaska's lower volume district courts experienced a 10% increase in case filings in FY 84. Dispositions in these courts increased by 3% from FY 83.

Filings of felony and civil matters decreased by 7% and 3% respectively from FY 83. Filings of misdemeanors remained relatively constant from FY 83 and traffic cases increased by 29%.

Filings for lower volume courts in all but the second judicial district increased during FY 84. Second district courts reported an 11% decrease in filings while first, third and fourth judicial districts reported 10%, 5% and 18% increases respectively. First and second district lower volume district courts reported -9% and -48% changes in case dispositions in FY 84 while third and fourth district courts reported +3% and +25% increases in case dispositions respectively.

In the first judicial district, Craig and Haines reported significant increases in case filings while Hoonah, Haines, Kake and Skagway reported significant decreases.

In the second judicial district, Selawik reported significantly increased filings while Savoonga, Shungnak and Unalakleet reported significant decreases in filings.

In the third judicial district Cold Bay, Seldovia and St. Paul Island reported significant increases in filings while Naknek and Whittier reported significant decreases.

In the fourth judicial district, Ft. Yukon, Healy, Nenana and Tanana reported significant increases in filings while Delta Junction reported a significant decrease in new filings.

Most of the increased filing activity in these lower volume courts came from traffic filings. However, Hoonah, Kake, Yakutat, Selawik, Cold Bay, Seldovia, St. Paul Island and Healy reported significant increases in criminal case filings. Craig, Haines, Cold Bay and Aniak reported significant increases in civil case filings.

LOW VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS
FILINGS
FY 84

JUDICIAL DISTRICT (INC. SERVICE AREAS)	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
First	31	637	254	5	71	998
Second	12	401	8	--	---	421
Third	7	392	139	2	55	595
Fourth	66	594	1,259	18	191	2,128
TOTAL	116	2,024	1,660	25	317	4,142
% OF TOTAL	3%	49%	40%	1%	8%	100%

LOW VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITIONS
FY 84

JUDICIAL DISTRICT (INC. SERVICE AREAS)	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
First	5	484	254	5	43	791
Second	8	207	8	--	10	233
Third	3	332	139	--	34	508
Fourth	49	601	1,259	16	131	2,056
TOTAL	65	1,624	1,660	21	218	3,588
% OF TOTAL	2%	45%	47%	1%	6%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FILINGS
FY 84

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Craig	9	212	167	5	38	431
Hoonah	1	86	1	--	--	88
Kake	5	87	4	--	--	96
Haines	12	93	47	--	10	162
Angoon	--	50	--	--	7	57
Skagway	--	28	27	--	5	60
Yakutat	4	81	8	--	11	104
TOTAL	31	637	254	5	71	998
% OF TOTAL	3%	64%	25%	1%	7%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISPOSITIONS
FY 84

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Craig	3	224	167	5	24	423
Hoonah		62	1	--	--	63
Kake	--	--	4	--	--	4
Haines	--	53	47	--	10	110
Angoon	--	52	--	--	4	56
Skagway	--	32	27	--	5	64
Yakutat	2	61	8	--	--	71
TOTAL	5	484	254	5	43	791
% OF TOTAL	1%	61%	32%	1%	5%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FILINGS
FY 84

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Buckland	Not Active Court					
Gambell	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kiana	3	35	--	--	--	38
Pt. Hope	2	12	6	--	--	20
Noorvick	--	--	--	--	--	--
Savoonga	1	66	2	--	--	69
Selawik	3	188	--	--	--	191
Shungnak	--	2	--	--	--	2
Unalakleet	3	98	--	--	--	101
TOTAL	12	401	8	--	--	421
% OF TOTAL	3%	95%	2%	--	--	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISPOSITIONS
FY 84

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Buckland	Not Active Court					
Gambell	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kiana	2	25	--	--	--	27
Pt. Hope	2	13	6	--	2	23
Noorvick	--	--	--	--	--	--
Savoonga	1	56	2	--	--	59
Selawik	--	--	--	--	--	--
Shungnak	--	3	--	--	--	3
Unalakleet	3	110	--	--	8	121
TOTAL	8	207	8	--	10	233
% OF TOTAL	3%	89%	3%	--	5%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FILINGS
FY 84

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Cold Bay	3	103	13	2	50	171
Naknek	--	61	72	-	--	133
Sand Point	--	--	1	-	--	1
Seldovia	--	118	21	-	3	142
St. Paul Island	4	108	3	-	2	117
Whittier	--	2	29	-	--	31
TOTAL	7	392	139	2	55	595
% OF TOTAL	1%	66%	23%	1%	9%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISPOSITIONS
FY 84

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Cold Bay	--	82	13	-	34	129
Naknek	--	30	72	-	--	102
Sand Point	--	--	1	-	--	1
Seldovia	--	121	21	-	--	142
St. Paul Island	3	93	3	-	--	99
Whittier	--	6	29	-	--	35
TOTAL	3	332	139	-	34	508
% OF TOTAL	1%	65%	27%	-	7%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FILINGS
FY 84

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Ft. Yukon	6	68	61	7	4	146
Galena	14	96	4	3	18	135
Healy	1	97	470	1	10	579
Nenana	7	49	246	2	24	328
Delta Junction	23	123	431	3	67	647
Tanana	2	30	45	--	--	77
TOTAL	53	463	1,257	16	123	1,912
% OF TOTAL	3%	24%	66%	1%	6%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISPOSITIONS
FY 84

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Ft. Yukon	4	47	61	7	7	126
Galena	13	105	4	3	8	133
Healy	--	98	470	1	9	578
Nenana	5	48	246	2	6	606
Delta Junction	21	116	431	3	57	628
Tanana	2	62	45	--	--	109
TOTAL	45	476	1,257	16	87	1,891
% OF TOTAL	2%	25%	67%	1%	5%	100%

BETHEL AREA FILINGS

FY 84

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Aniak	1	61	2	2	42	108
Emmonak	6	57	-	-	18	81
Hooper Bay	--	--	-	-	--	--
Quinhagak	--	1	-	-	--	1
McGrath	6	12	-	-	8	26
Mekoryuk	--	--	-	-	--	--
Mt. Village	--	--	-	-	--	--
St. Marys	--	--	-	-	--	--
Tununak	--	--	-	-	--	--
TOTAL	13	131	2	2	68	216
% OF TOTAL	6%	61%	1%	1%	31%	100%

BETHEL AREA DISPOSITIONS

FY 84

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Aniak	--	46	2	-	17	65
Emmonak	4	60	-	-	18	82
Hooper Bay	--	--	-	-	--	--
Quinhagak	--	3	-	-	--	3
McGrath	--	16	-	-	9	25
Mekoryuk	--	--	-	-	--	--
Mt. Village	--	--	-	-	--	--
St. Marys	--	--	-	-	--	--
Tununak	--	--	-	-	--	--
TOTAL	4	125	2	-	44	175
% OF TOTAL	2%	72%	1%	-	25%	100%